
REGIONAL R A P ALLIANCE for PRESERVATION

Winter 2002

A nationwide cooperative project to share preservation training resources

INTRODUCTION

-By Susan W. DuBois, Preservation Services Representative, Conservation Center for Arts and Historic Artifacts (CCAHA)

As many of you know, Tom Claeson, formerly Imaging and Preservation Services Manager at Amigos Library Services, Inc., has moved to a new position as Product Manager, Digital & Preservation Resources at OCLC Online Computer Library Center, Inc. RAP wishes him the best in his new position and thanks him for all his contributions to RAP. While Amigos searched for someone to replace Tom, they asked me to be the guest editor of the RAP Newsletter. I was happy to hear that as the newsletter was being formatted, Shelby Sanett was hired as the new Imaging and Preservation Services Manager at Amigos. With Shelby and Cathy Wilt's (Director of Member Support and Education Services at Amigos Library Services, Inc.) assistance, we have pulled together a newsletter for you that is a reflection of our "recent events."

Recently, I read on the NEH Web site President Bush's letter to the National Endowment of the Humanities declaring October National Arts and Humanities month. It said, in part:

During these extraordinary times, the arts and humanities

have provided means for coping and healing in the face of tragedy. Since the September 11 attacks, individuals and groups throughout our country have joined together to celebrate their patriotism by proudly singing "The Star-Spangled Banner" and "God Bless America." Others have expressed their grief by creating visual or written tributes to those who lost their lives. People of all ages have documented their personal experiences, firsthand knowledge, and impressions of recent events to create a lasting historical record for future generations.

So many of us are overwhelmed by the September 11 tragedies and the events since that time, and have struggled with our roles in the recovery. There is a role for all of us, and for many of us it will be found in the preservation of the history of this event. Responses of humanities organizations have taken many forms in the wake of this event, and many institutions directly affected by the tragedies have made great progress. A summary of some of these efforts is included in this newsletter. Also included is the update of ongoing preservation-related activities of RAP members.

INTERNET RESOURCES AVAILABLE RELATING TO SEPTEMBER 11

-By Susan W. DuBois, Preservation Services Representative, Conservation Center for Arts and Historic Artifacts (CCAHA)

As with every profession, there was immediate concern on behalf of the conservation and preservation community for the welfare of their colleagues on September 11. As time moves on, we began to wonder how we could help those organizations and their staff. What we are finding is that many agencies have created resources to help us connect and assist those dealing with the crisis. These resources show that many institutions directly affected by the terrorists attacks are making incredible progress, and some are now beginning to concern themselves with the historical documentation of September 11, 2001. Resources are also available to help us be proactive in our disaster planning and therefore less fearful. This article is not meant to be an all-inclusive list of resources, but a summary of those "on the Web" resources that may be of interest to those in the humanities field.

The National Task Force on Emergency Response called an informal meeting of Washington-area members on September 18, 2001, to begin to discuss the cultural and heritage repercussions of the terrorist attacks of September 11. The meeting was only an hour long, but started a wave of action and response from these institutions that is still continuing in many forms.

Since that time, the National Task Force has developed "When the Dust Settles: Safely Cleaning Family Treasures," available on their Web site at <http://www.heritagepreservation.org/PDFS/Dustpressrelease.pdf>. The Task Force will also undertake a survey of cultural losses resulting from the September 11 attacks. A full announcement about this survey is included in this newsletter.

The Library of Congress is leading an effort, in collaboration with Internet Archive and webArchivist.org, to collect and document

information on the Internet related to September 11. The site <http://september11.archive.org> went online October 11, and now contains over 500,000 Web pages.

On October 4, 2001, over 80 history professionals representing more than 30 institutions gathered in New York City to discuss "The Role of the History Museum in a Time of Crisis." In an effort to record this event for future generations and to collect materials in ways that are both sensitive and appropriate, the participants called for a coordination of efforts and continued communication among collecting institutions. The resulting Web site, <http://www.911history.net>, is designed to be a resource for historians, museums, archives, and other collecting institutions, on preserving and interpreting the physical evidence of the September 11 attacks on the Pentagon and the World Trade Center.

The New York State Archives and the State Historical Records Advisory Board established a Web site to assist New York City repositories affected by the events of September 11, 2001 at <http://www.nyshrab.org/WTC/wtc.html>. The site contains many links and many helpful sections, including:

- Information about efforts underway to document the World Trade Center tragedy.
- A list documenting the current status of repositories in the affected area.
- Alphabetical lists of state, federal and local agencies in New York that were affected.
- Resources for corporations and small businesses trying to recover records and data essential to their current operations.

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CULTURAL LOSSES FROM ATTACKS WILL BE DOCUMENTED

A professional assessment has begun of the damage and loss to cultural properties in New York and Washington resulting from the September 11 attacks. Leading the survey of the affected museums, libraries, archives, and historic sites is the National Task Force on Emergency Response, a coalition of federal agencies and private nonprofit organizations under the leadership of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Heritage Preservation, Inc., a Washington-based non-profit dedicated to conservation of the nation's cultural heritage.

The survey, under the guidance of conservators, will examine responses, needs, and requirements for recovery of affected institutions, collections, artifacts and historic properties. Preparedness for future emergencies will also be a major focus. Funding is being provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities and The Bay Foundation of New York City. "We need concerned professionals to gather the facts and information as well as damage reports from people responsible for caring for the affected cultural properties. To obtain an authoritative, coherent report, it is important that the survey describe not only what has been lost and damaged but also restoration efforts, and what emergency response strategies have proved to be useful," said Robert Ashton, Executive Director of the Bay Foundation.

In addition to surveying collecting institutions, the Task Force will evaluate the status of 245 pieces of outdoor sculpture in Lower Manhattan. The report will also document the impact of the disaster on other public art along with privately owned historic buildings, archives and art collections. An assessment of damage to the Pentagon Library and other artifacts in the Pentagon will also be included. The report will be issued in the spring of 2002.

"In the wake of September 11, we at NEH want to offer support to the New York cultural community," said George Farr, director of the Division of Preservation and Access at the National Endowment for the Humanities. "The NEH emergency grant to Heritage Preservation will help record the impact of this unprecedented disaster on New York's cultural resources, and identify the most useful recovery strategies."

The National Task Force on Emergency Response was established in 1995 and is cosponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Heritage Preservation, Inc. The Task Force, a coalition of 30 national organizations and federal agencies, helps collecting institutions and communities protect their precious cultural and historic resources from damage caused by disasters and also provides information to the public. Its guidelines on cleaning soot, dust, and debris, developed after September 11, can be found at www.heritagepreservation.org.

Inquiries regarding the report may be sent to Ruth Hargraves, project coordinator, at rhargraves@heritagepreservation.org or 202/634-1422. ■

AMERICA'S HERITAGE TO RECEIVE A CHECK-UP

Heritage Preservation, in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and with major funding from the Getty Grant Program, has begun work on the Heritage Health Index. The survey will gather data on the condition of collections in museums, libraries, archives, and historical societies every four years. By surveying such a diverse group of collecting institutions, the project will produce a comprehensive picture of the current state of our nation's collections and preservation needs. At present, no national survey is conducted regularly to produce credible statistics regarding the condition of the nation's artistic, historical, and scientific collections.

Heritage Preservation President Lawrence L. Reger explains, "This data is critical not only for setting future priorities within our field, but in building a persuasive case for resources to policy-makers, trustees, and prospective donors outside our institutions. Statistical information will also be a means for educating the public about the great investment that collecting institutions are making to preserve our collective heritage."

RAP is cooperating with Heritage Preservation in this effort by serving on the Heritage Health Index's Institutional Advisory Committee. The Committee, made up of organizations that advocate for collecting institutions, will provide guidance and oversight regarding survey development and distribution. Ann Russell, Director of NEDCC and RAP representative on the committee, said, "The results of Heritage Health Index will be useful for RAP's constituents because it will place their preservation activities and needs in a national context."

Working groups of professionals will advise the Heritage Health Index on survey design and expression of questions. The membership of each working group will reflect the diversity of the institutions to be surveyed, including conservators, preservation specialists, curators, librarians, and administrators. Their experience with collections care procedures and policies and other institutional issues will be essential in developing an accurate, useable, and practical survey tool. ■

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- Information about salvaging and preserving affected records.
- Information about sources of funding for disaster recovery.
- Information for those interested in volunteering their time and expertise or offering temporary records storage space.

The Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Institute was invited by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to serve as an advisor regarding the environmental and human health impacts of the tragedy. The team made recommendations and continues to offer assistance. They have created a Web site at <http://www.eohsi.rutgers.edu/rc/response.shtml>. The site offers a helpful document, "Dust in Your Home/Business: Removing it and Reducing Your Exposure."

The National Fire Protection Agencies' Hazardous Materials Response Committee has developed a series of consensus-based standards for first responders who may be confronted by emergency incidents involving chemical or biological substances. Due to the ongoing concern about future disasters, NFPA is offering immediate free PDF downloads of three documents on their Web site at <http://www.nfpa.org/Codes/CodesandStandards/Offer/Offer.asp>:

- NFPA 471: Recommended Practice for Responding to Hazardous Materials Incidents
- NFPA 472: Professional Competence of Responders to Hazardous Materials Incidents
- NFPA 473: Professional Competence of Emergency Medical Responders to Hazardous Materials Incidents

Many sites mentioned here also have links to other agencies and organizations that have responded to the events of September 11. The list of resources available will surely grow in the near future. ■

Conservation Consultants

Referral for consultants who provide conservation services can be obtained from:

American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC)
1717 K Street NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20006;
202/452-9545; E-mail: info@aic-faic.org.

A list of conservators in your region can be provided by the AIC Guide to Conservation Services. Copies of the brochure *Guidelines for Selecting a Conservator*, and the AIC Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice can be obtained from the AIC office, and are available on the AIC Web site, <http://aic.stanford.edu>.

FIELD SERVICES CONTACTS

Amigos Library Services, Inc.

Shelby Sanett, Imaging and Preservation Services Manager
Bill Walker, Imaging Field Services Officer
14400 Midway Road
Dallas, TX 75244-3509
800/843-8482 or 972/851-8000 Fax: 972/991-6061
E-mail: sanett@amigos.org or walker@amigos.org
Web site: <http://www.amigos.org>

Balboa Art Conservation Center

Janet Ruggles, Director
PO Box 3755
San Diego, CA 92163-1755
Tel: 619/236-9702; Fax: 619/236-0141
E-mail: bacc9702@compuserve.com

CCAHA

Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts

Virgilia Rawnsley, Director of Preservation Services
Susan W. DuBois, Preservation Services Representative
264 South 23rd Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103
215/545-0613 Fax: 215/735-9313
E-mail: ccaaha@ccaaha.org
Web site: <http://www.ccaaha.org>

Gerald R. Ford Conservation Center

Julie Reilly, Director
1326 South 32nd Street
Omaha, NE 68105
402/595-1180 Fax: 402/595-1178
E-mail: grfcc@radiks.net
Web site: www.nebraskahistory.org

Intermuseum Conservation Association

Albert Albano, Director
Allen Art Building
Oberlin, OH 44074
440/775-7331 Fax: 440/774-3431
E-mail: albert.albano@oberlin.edu
Web site: www.oberlin.edu/~ica

NEDCC

Northeast Document Conservation Center

Steve Dalton, Director of Field Service
100 Brickstone Square, 4th Floor
Andover, MA 01810-1494
978/470-1010 Fax: 978/475-6021
E-mail: dalton@nedcc.org
Web site: <http://www.nedcc.org>

NPS - HFC

Martin Burke
Division of Conservation
PO Box 50
Harpers Ferry, WV 25425
304/535-6228 Fax: 304/535-6055
E-mail: martin_burke@nps.gov

Peebles Island Resource Center

John Lovell, Assistant Director
Bureau of Historic Sites
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation
& Historic Preservation
PO Box 219
Peebles Island
Waterford, NY 12188
Tel: 518/237-8643, ext. 225 or 226
Fax: 518/235-4248
E-mail: John.Lovell@oprhp.state.ny.us

SOLINET

The Southeastern Library Network Preservation Services

Julie Arnott, Manager, Preservation Services
Christine Wiseman, Preservation Education Officer
Tina Mason, Preservation Field Services Officer
1438 W. Peachtree St., NW, Suite 200
Atlanta, GA 30309-2955
800/999-8558 and 404/892-0943 Fax: 404/892-7879
E-mail: julie_arnott@solinet.net
christine_wiseman@solinet.net
tina_mason@solinet.net
Web site: www.solinet.net/

Straus Center for Conservation

Henry Lie, Director
Harvard University Art Museums
32 Quincy Street
Cambridge, MA 02138
Tel: 617/495-2392
Fax: 617/495-0322
E-mail: lie@fas.harvard.edu
Web site: www.artmuseums.harvard.edu

Textile Conservation Center

American Textile History Museum
491 Dutton Street
Lowell, MA 01854
Tel: 978/441-1198
Fax: 978/441-1412

Textile Conservation Workshop

Patsy Orlofsky, Director
3 Main Street
South Salem, NY 10590
Tel: 914/763-5805
Fax: 914/763-5549

UMCA

Upper Midwest Conservation Association

Neil C. Cockerline, Director of Field Services
2400 Third Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55404
612/870-3120 Fax: 612/870-3118
E-mail: umca@aol.com
Web site: www.preserveart.org

WACC

Williamstown Art Conservation Center

225 South Street, Williamstown, MA 01267
Tel: 413/458-5741
Fax: 413/458-2314
E-mail: wacc@clark.williams.edu

UPDATE ON AMERICA'S TREASURES

-By Ellen Lovell and Larry Roger on behalf of the Preservation Working Group

Although the passage of FY 2002 appropriations bills is somewhat uncertain in the aftermath of the recent national tragedies, funding for a fourth year of Save America's Treasures through the National Park Service, U.S. Department of Interior, looks probable. Both Senate and House Appropriations Committees have approved the \$30 million recommended by the Bush Administration. It is well known that First Lady Laura Bush has a long-term interest in preservation. Mrs. Bush publicly stated her support for Save America's Treasures in a May 11, 2001, interview with Jim Lehrer on NewsHour, and she recently agreed to serve as the program's honorary chair. In the related Office of Management and Budget submission to Congress, the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, a presidential advisory committee, was given a role coordinating the program. First Lady Laura Bush is the honorary chair of the President's Committee.

The National Park Service will continue to administer the grants with advice from an expert panel. A pre-review of applications for collections, artworks, and monuments is conducted by the National Endowment for the Arts, which also administers the arts-related grants. The General Services Administration also assists the NPS in the initial application review process and in coordinating the expert panel. The National Trust for Historic Preservation will continue its role as the principal private partner for the program, attracting private contributions and disseminating information. All the partners offer technical assistance and advice to potential applicants and others interested in learning more about the program.

The 2002 application process: The National Park Service is working to give applicants to the SAT program more guidance on their applications and more time to prepare them. Look for the guidelines and applications on the NPS Web site at www2.cr.nps.gov/treasures by late December 2001. Expect a mid-March 2002 deadline for the next round. The application form will not be revised extensively for 2002; however, it will contain more information related to collections, and will assure those nonprofit organizations applying on behalf of their collections, artifacts, and artwork, that they are an important part of Save America's Treasures and eligible for the grants program.

To get prepared: As the SAT program continues and demonstrates results, it is becoming highly competitive; nearly 400 applications were received for the 2001 grants. Future applicants will need to work hard to succeed. The program is committed to developing a strong pool of applicants, so please start early and consider the following factors as you think about applying for SAT funds.

There are several ways to prepare for the 2002 grants process. First, please study the grants awarded in FY99, 00, and 01. These may be found on the NPS Web site. They are very instructive, giving you an idea of successful applications that made a case for their significance, urgency of need, educational value, public access, and ability to raise the matching funds.

Second, start making the case for your property or collection. If you are applying for a structure or building, it must already be listed, or considered eligible by the SHPO for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places. Check to see if you are listed for national significance, or only for state or local significance. If state or local, you should approach your State Historic Preservation Officer now to ask for a letter affirming the national significance of your property and why it deserves this stature. If you are applying for a collection or artwork, now is the time to begin engaging staff or outside experts in creating a case for national importance. As you will see from the list of past awards, even

collections that are not well known beyond their states or regions were deemed nationally significant because of their contributions to a body of knowledge about our history or cultural heritage. The SHPO's support and the strength of your evidence for national significance are essential for the application to be eligible for SAT funding.

Third, start writing a plan of work and a budget that will stand up to scrutiny by experts in your field. Be as realistic and specific as you can, making sure that the work is directly related to the proposed preservation project. And finally, if you are an association, inform your members now about upcoming deadlines, grants lists, and ways to get prepared.

In 2001, under 20% of applications came from preservation projects for collections, and about 80% sought funds to preserve structures and buildings. Save America's Treasures invites applications for a variety of worthy projects with compelling need. We hope this information will help you get ready for the program next year.

For more information you may contact:

For buildings and archeological sites: call the National Park Service at 202/343-9570, and NPS staff will return your call.

For collections and artworks, call the National Endowment for the Arts: Kim Jefferson, Leadership Specialist, 202/682-5516; jeffersk@arts.endow.gov or Michael McLaughlin, Leadership Coordinator, 202/682-5457; mclaughm@arts.endow.gov.

For advice and assistance, call:

Joan Brierton, Historic Preservation Specialist, General Services Administration, 202/219-0192; joan.brierton@gsa.gov.

Fiona Lawless, Program Coordinator, Save America's Treasures, National Trust for Historic Preservation, 202/588-6215; fiona_lawless@nthp.org.

Moirá Egan, Vice President, External Relations, Heritage Preservation, Inc., 202/634-1422; megan@heritagepreservation.org.

RAP POSTER AT IFLA

-By Jill Rawnsley, Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts (CCAHA)

The Regional Alliance for Preservation (RAP) participated in poster presentations at IFLA's 67th General Conference in Boston, MA, August 21-22, 2001. As one of 68 presentations, the purpose of the poster was to demonstrate RAP's success as a model initiative of a consortium of preservation organizations providing comprehensive information to cultural institutions and the public throughout the United States.

The poster illustrated activities and strengths of this unique network of preservation and conservation organizations. RAP disseminates information on preservation of materials culture through educational events, publications, a quarterly newsletter, and a Web site. Samples of these publications, along with pictures of the treatment services offered by RAP members, were used to illustrate RAP's various activities. Brochures and business cards with RAP's Web site address were available as handouts.

It was a wonderful opportunity to tell the international community about RAP and our cooperative activities. Talking with people who came by to learn about RAP provides a chance to exchange ideas and to promote our commitment to preserve and protect our cultural heritage.

NEWS FROM THE REGIONAL CENTERS

NEDCC Welcomes IFLA to Boston: Thinking Globally and Locally

-By Jamie Doyle, NEDCC



On August 16-25, 2001, the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) held its 67th general conference in Boston, MA. A record-breaking audience of over 5,000 librarians from around the world traveled to the Bay State to take part in this nine-day event. Founded in 1927, IFLA is an independent association that has formal associate relations with UNESCO. The aims of IFLA are to promote international cooperation and

development and to provide a body through which librarianship can be represented in matters of international interest.

NEDCC responded to the interests of IFLA members in preservation by opening its laboratory doors for a tour. On August 23, NEDCC welcomed over 40 librarians to its facilities in Andover, MA. Librarians from Russia, Indonesia, Korea, Tanzania, Kenya, and many other countries toured NEDCC's paper conservation, bindery, microfilm, and photoduplication departments, where conservators and technicians explained equipment and discussed typical treatments.

On August 24, NEDCC Director Ann Russell was the convener of a special lecture on *Conservation in America: A Case Study in Cooperation*, at the Hynes Convention Center. The speakers were George Farr, Director of the Division of Preservation and Access, National Endowment for the Humanities, and Deanna Marcum, President, Council for Library and Information Resources (CLIR). Following the lecture, NEDCC held a reception in the historic Boston Public Library's courtyard co-sponsored by CLIR.

In the past year, NEDCC staff have traveled to Cuba, South Africa, Russia, and Mongolia providing workshops, conferences, institutional surveys, and consultations, as well as developing new international collaborations and educational initiatives. When it comes to the field of conservation, the Northeast Document Conservation Center continues to think *and* act both locally *and* globally. ■

OCLC Joins NEDCC/Amigos Collaboration for IMLS National Library Leadership Project

NEDCC announces that OCLC Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) of Ohio has joined its partnership with Texas-based Amigos Library Services to produce preservation training under a Library Leadership Grant from the Institute of Museums and Library Services (IMLS). The NEDCC/Amigos partnership received the grant in October 2001 to support production of preservation planning training tools in several media. IMLS' prestigious grant is awarded to model projects that have far-reaching impact throughout the library community.

NEDCC will work in cooperation with Amigos and OCLC to produce a workbook on how to assess the preservation needs of a library, a video illustrating major points of the workbook, and a Web publication incorporating clips from the video to illustrate the text. Specifically, OCLC will make staff available to write and edit a video on surveying a library's preservation needs. The goal of this ambitious two-year project is to equip libraries across the country to identify risks and prioritize the preservation needs of their collections. By utilizing a variety of media and technology, the partners will make these training tools highly accessible and affordable.

For over 29 years, NEDCC has met the evolving needs of the library and museum communities. A nonprofit regional conservation center, it performs paper conservation, book conservation, preservation micro-filming, and duplication of photographic negatives. Both NEDCC and Amigos receive major funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities to support their field service programs. Amigos Library

Services, Inc. is a nonprofit, membership-based organization dedicated to providing resource-sharing opportunities and information technology to libraries. The Amigos membership consists of over 700 libraries and cultural institutions located primarily in the southwestern United States who utilize its comprehensive line of services, including cataloging, reference, resource sharing, preservation, digital imaging, and training.

Headquartered in Dublin, Ohio, OCLC Online Computer Library Center is a nonprofit organization that provides computer-based cataloging, reference, resource sharing and preservation services to 41,000 libraries in 82 countries and territories. OCLC was founded in 1967 to improve access to the world's information and reduce information costs, and conducts ongoing research to develop technologies to support that mission.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is an independent federal agency located in Washington, DC that fosters leadership, innovation, and a lifetime of learning by supporting the nation's 15,000 museums and 122,000 libraries.

To learn more about their programs and services, visit the partners' Web sites: NEDCC, www.nedcc.org; OCLC, www.oclc.org; and Amigos Library Services, www.amigos.org. ■

Off the Wall and Online: Providing Web Access to Cultural Collections, May 30-31, 2002

If you have time for only one conference this year, opt for *Off the Wall and Online* at the Museum of Our National Heritage in Lexington, MA. This cutting-edge conference from the Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC) in Andover, MA., is designed to serve institutions that are digitizing or planning to digitize collections and also those who simply want to make their Websites more interesting. As the emergence of the World Wide Web has made the world smaller, museums and their online audiences have grown tremendously. This event will address the questions and challenges facing both large and small institutions undertaking digitization projects and putting images from their collections online for educational purposes, research, and public relations.

The NEDCC conference will bring together museum educators, technical experts, and administrators to discuss new access opportunities as well as often perplexing issues of quality versus cost and longevity of digital files. A keynote address by Beverly Sheppard, Deputy Director of IMLS, will focus on outreach to diverse communities. New evaluation data will be presented to help define the online audience and determine what sorts of programs are most effective in engaging this audience.

Topics will include:

- The Changing Role of Museums
- Cooperating to Build Virtual Collections
- Designing a Website
- Web-based Education
- Attracting Visitors to a Website
- Reaching Out to Diverse Audiences
- Quality of Scanned Images
- Image Capture for Preservation & Access

The conference will be held May 30-31, 2002, at the Museum of Our National Heritage in Lexington, MA. A National Museum Leadership Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) supports this high-profile event. IMLS is an independent, grant-making federal agency that fosters leadership, innovation and education learning through museums and libraries. Co-sponsors are the New England Museum Association and Museum of Our National Heritage. NEDCC also receives financial support for its field service activities from the National Endowment for Humanities and Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Registration information is available on NEDCC's Web site at www.nedcc.org, or contact Ginny Hughes at ghughes@nedcc.org. ■

New York State's Battle Flag Preservation Project: An Update



Flags are important symbols of our nation's freedom, and New York State has one of the largest collections in the nation, with flags dating from the War of 1812 through the 1991 Gulf War. Three years ago, the Fall/Winter issue of *The Preservationist* reported on the 1997 survey that staff from State Parks' Peebles Island Resource Center (PIRC) and the Division of Military and Naval Affairs (DMNA) conducted of battle flags in the New York State Capitol. The article, entitled "Heritage at Risk: New York State's Battle Flags," noted that most of the flags in the Capitol were being damaged by their current method of display/storage. The flags had been rolled too tightly around their staffs, crowded into cases in an uncontrolled environment, and exposed to excessive light, stress from gravity, and soils from the surrounding urban environment. *The Preservationist* article also described recommendations contained in a 1998 flag preservation plan prepared by PIRC and DMNA, which proposed the establishment of a flag archive.

In 2000/01, in recognition of the significance of the battle flag collection, Governor George E. Pataki and the New York State Legislature provided funding to implement preservation recommendations outlined in the 1997 survey and 1998 preservation plan. Textile conservator Sarah C. Stevens was hired in 2000 to work under the direction of PIRC Textile Conservator Deborah Lee Trupin to work exclusively on the battle flags. In the fall of 2000, Stevens surveyed the dimensions of the Capitol collection and wrapped most of the flags in acid-free tissue to provide protection from further environmental damage.

Over the past year, small groups of flags have been transported from the Capitol to Peebles Island, the temporary home for the treated battle flags. In the stable, clean environment of the PIRC facility in Waterford, Stevens and conservation technician Ruth Potter have begun preparing the flags for long-term storage. The conservators have documented the condition of each flag, removed the flags from their staffs, cleaned and realigned the flags, and placed each flag on a rigid support made of archival-quality materials. During the summer of 2001, an intern from Finland, Anri Heinonen, also assisted in the conservation work. To date, about 70 flags have been prepared for the archive.

In October 10, 1998, an exhibit featuring 10 preserved Civil War flags premiered on the second floor of the Capitol. It remained on display until June 2001, when a second flag exhibition opened to the public. Flags in the recent display illustrate the range of New York State's battle flag collection. The earliest flag on exhibition, a regimental flag of the Albany Republican Artillery, dates to ca. 1809. A 1960s wool guidon of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company 27th Supply and Transport Battalion is a more recent addition to the battle flag collection. State Parks and DMNA plan to conduct annual shows so that as conservation work progresses, visitors to the capitol can continue to view the collection and follow progress of the flag preservation effort.

In July 2001, Governor Pataki announced that the Saratoga Armory, designed by architect Isaac G. Perry in 1889, would become the new site for a Military History Museum and Veteran's Research Center. The armory will also become the permanent home of the flag archive. Until the new archive is ready, the PIRC will continue to serve as an interim storage facility for battle flags that have received treatment.

Continuing support from the State of New York and private contributions will ensure the preservation of this outstanding battle flag collection. Donations in support of this initiative can be made to The Natural Heritage Trust—DMNA Flag Project and sent to: Director, Natural Heritage Trust, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation, Agency Building 1, Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12238. ■

CCAHA's Collections Central Storage and Access Initiative (CCSAI)



Seventeen Philadelphia-area institutions have developed a forward-thinking solution to a long-standing and ever-worsening problem: the need for high quality yet affordable off-site collection storage in the Philadelphia area. These institutions, led by CCAHA, have shown a dogged determination to achieve their goal and have made tremendous progress over the past three years.

The need is compelling. Not only are extremely valuable historical artifacts in jeopardy, but further growth of important collections is severely hampered. The storage crisis has begun to compromise the ability of many institutions to fulfill their missions. High quality storage at an affordable cost will enable these institutions to meet their mandate and preserve incredibly valuable pieces of our past for the enjoyment and edification of future generations.

With commitments from 17 institutions, the leadership of CCAHA, circumspect planning, a well-defined organizational model, and a carefully tested operating plan, the Collections Central Storage and Access Initiative is strategically positioned to successfully launch the long-awaited implementation phase of this project.

For more information about CCSAI, visit CCAHA's Web site, www.ccaha.org. ■

CCAHA Workshops

April 15-17, 2002

Cleveland, OH - Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum
From Negative To Positive:

- *Identification and Care of Photographic Prints*
- *Identification and Care of Photographic Negatives*
- *Planning Your Digital Imaging Project*

This photograph workshop series is sponsored by CCAHA and the Intermuseum Conservation Association (ICA).

Photographs are magical objects. William Henry Fox Talbot, who invented the negative-positive process, wrote of "the inimitable beauty of the pictures of nature's painting which the glass lens of the camera throws upon the paper in its focus-fairy pictures, creatures of a moment, and destined as rapidly to fade away." Photographs are often the most used materials held in our institutions. This workshop series is designed to help cultural institutions develop strategies needed to establish safe storage environments and handling procedures, and to select appropriate reformatting options.

The workshops are intended for staff involved in collections care activities or with responsibility for photograph collections, such as librarians, archivists, curators, collections managers, stewards of historic house museums, and records managers.

Through support from IMLS, CCAHA is able to offer financial assistance to individuals from institutions with operating budgets of \$500,000 or less. Registration and stipend information is now available for these workshops on CCAHA's Web site, www.ccaha.org or by calling CCAHA at 215/545-0613.

CCAHA Workshops *continued on page 7*

CCAHA WORKSHOPS *continued from page 6*

June 25-27, 2002

New York, NY – New York Genealogical and Biographical Society
Disaster Mitigation for Cultural Collections:

- *Be Prepared... Conducting a Vulnerability Assessment*
- *Be Prepared... Assessing Health and Safety Risks*
- *Be Prepared... Mitigating Fire and Security Risks*

The tragic events of September 11, 2001, have raised our consciousness about the perils of terrorism. To respond to the recent threats of terrorist acts, many institutions are assessing their ability to respond to an emergency. In addition to large-scale emergencies, institutions should also be prepared to respond to the danger to their collections from roof leaks, pest infestation, mold blooms, theft, and fire. Disaster mitigation should play a role in any institution's emergency preparedness and planning efforts.

CCAHA's Disaster Mitigation Workshop Series is designed to help institutions reduce the probability of emergencies they can control, and limit the damage to collections that results from disasters they cannot control. This series will provide tools for assessing an institution's vulnerability to disaster, evaluating fire prevention and suppression strategies, determining security risks and assessing health and safety factors related to disaster.

The workshops are intended for staff involved in collections care activities or with responsibility for the safety of collections, such as librarians, archivists, curators, collections managers, stewards of historic house museums, site and facilities managers, and security and safety staff.

Stipends will also be available for this workshop, but registration and stipend information is not currently available. Further details will be available in mid-February and posted on the CCAHA Web site. CCAHA also hopes to bring this series back to Philadelphia (where it originated in 1999) in the fall of 2002. ■

Williamstown Art Conservation and High Museum of Art Establish a Major Regional Conservation Center to Serve the Southeast

Williamstown Art Conservation Center forges unique partnership with High Museum of Art



Williamstown, MA - The Williamstown Art Conservation Center (WACC) is collaborating with the High Museum of Art to establish the Atlanta Art Conservation Center (AACC), the Southeastern United States' first conservation center that will serve cultural institutions throughout the region. In order to

provide premier conservation services and expertise to the AACC's member organizations, Williamstown Art Conservation Center staff will manage the 6,686 square foot state-of-the-art facility.

"We are extremely pleased to be embarking on this partnership, and salute the High for creating a necessary and vital connection for conservation," stated Tom Branchick, Director of WACC. "This new facility will be a true asset for the region, and we are excited to extend our conservation staff and expertise to many diverse institutions."

At the recent inauguration of the AACC, Michael Shapiro, Nancy and Holcombe T. Green, Jr. Director of the High Museum of Art, announced, "The new Center will not only fulfill a critical need for our regional peers, but will also function as a hub for the best in conservation services and experience through collaboration with the Williamstown Art Conservation Center. This partnership will also allow the High to extend its role as the leading museum in the Southeast by providing a facility for preserving the region's most important collections." When fully staffed, the AACC will house 12 professionals trained to conserve paintings, furniture, decorative objects, sculptures, frames, and works on paper. The spacious facility, located in a former commercial building converted by the Museum in 2001, will accommodate conservators and large-scale equipment necessary for a

wide range of treatments in a variety of disciplines. It features specialized conservation areas for paintings, objects, and works on paper, as well as storage space for artwork undergoing treatment, a photo studio complete with darkroom, and staff offices. The Center is organized as a member consortium, but services are available to any institution, group, or individual needing conservation of works of art. Currently, the AACC has six institutional members and numerous private clients. The High has entered into a long-term partnership with the Williamstown Conservation Center for management of the lab and future development of the regional center.

About WACC

Founded in 1977 to address the needs of collections held by nonprofit institutions throughout the Northeast, the Williamstown Art Conservation Center (formerly the Williamstown Regional Art Conservation Laboratory, Inc.) has become one of the nation's most active centers for the conservation of works of art. Located on the campus of the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute, its range of services, state-of-the-art facility, sensitivity of treatment, innovative approaches to specific conservation problems, and skill and commitment of its staff have made it one of the most effective regional centers in the country. Through its affiliation with Clark and Williams College, the Center provides access to important art, historical and scientific libraries, as well as to sophisticated analytical equipment. Organized as a member consortium, the Center has grown to include more than 50 museums and historical societies located throughout New England, New York, and Pennsylvania.

About the High

The High Museum of Art, originally founded in 1905 as the Atlanta Art Association, is the leading art museum in the southeastern United States. The Museum has two locations: the main facility is the critically acclaimed 1983 building designed by Richard Meier and situated in the heart of midtown Atlanta's arts and business district. The High's annex, the High Museum of Art Folk Art and Photography Galleries, is located in downtown Atlanta. The High Museum of Art has an extensive collection of 19th and 20th century American art; acclaimed collections of European and decorative art; and burgeoning collections of photography, folk art, African art, and modern and contemporary art. ■

Relocation of the Intermuseum Conservation Center



The ICA will once again publish a newsletter, with the first completely redesigned issue to be distributed in November. This newly revived ICA newsletter appears at a significant time with the most exciting news in the nearly 50 years since the organization's founding. Most significant is the bringing to fruition of the 4 1/2 year goal to relocate the ICA to the city of Cleveland. The goal will be realized as the result of the Association securing sufficient funds that allow the purchase and renovation of the 1926 historic "Designers for Industry" building at 2915 Detroit Avenue. This 18,000 square foot, north-facing building overlooks Lake Erie from its location four blocks from Cleveland City Center in the historic Ohio City District.

Our architects have designed the project to be implemented in distinct phases to allow additional programming activity to be incorporated into the design without compromising existing functions. For example, an environmentally controlled 3,000 square foot fine arts storage capability will be designed into the building for use by the Association's members, as there is no appropriate facility of this kind in the region. Existing first floor historic interior space will be restored and made available for an allied not-for-profit organization. In addition, internationally renowned designer Karim Rashid has agreed to design the building's interior public spaces for the ICA. Support funding for these two phases of the project is currently being sought.

Relocation continued on page 8

New Disaster Planning Information Online

-by Christine Wiseman, SOLINET



Most regional field service programs would agree that the demand for information on disaster planning and mitigation seems unending. The majority of the reference inquiries

received by SOLINET's Preservation Services is related to disaster planning and commonly includes questions about mold eradication, supplier referrals, and recovery of water damaged books and records. In addition, Web statistics reveal that the disaster pages on the Preservation Services Web site are among the most frequently visited month after month.

To address this need, we have published online several new leaflets related to disaster planning, and converted several of our existing leaflets to Adobe PDF format to facilitate printing. New titles include "Drying Wet Books and Records," which outlines currently available techniques – air drying, freeze drying, desiccant drying, vacuum freeze drying, and vacuum thermal drying – and discusses their specific applications. "The Decision-Making Tree for Disaster Recovery" and "Drying Techniques for Water-Damaged Books and Records" both summarize recovery information in a easy to reference format. Charts, supply stockpile forms, building survey checklists, and decision trees have been converted to PDF format so they may be printed from the Internet, completed with local information, and inserted directly into institutional emergency plans. To view and print these resources, go to <http://www.solinet.net/presvtn/leaf/leaflets.htm> and scroll down to the disaster planning heading.

Conference Proceedings Online

-by Christine Wiseman, SOLINET

SOLINET recently published online, "Virtual Libraries in the New Millennium," the proceedings of a May 2001 conference sponsored by Preservation Services. Virtual Libraries is SOLINET's first Web-only publication of conference proceedings. The conference included case studies of virtual library projects with a focus on future directions; an update on standards and best practices; discussion of selection and access issues; and an overview of networking resources needed in the future to support the growth of the virtual library. Highlights include Wendy Lougee's (University of Michigan) fascinating presentation on the future of the virtual library. "Virtual Libraries" can be viewed or downloaded and printed at www.solinet.net/presvtn/vl/vlibraries.htm.



RELOCATION *continued from page 7*

The building is primarily open, light-filled spaces with 12-to-15-foot ceilings. Drive-in-off-the-street loading, freight elevator and a full basement are some of the many assets that will allow the organization to continue to broaden and diversify its available conservation services for its 30 member institutions as well as the region.

Renovation of the building is in the planning phase, and we anticipate being in the fully operational building by next fall. Our planned departure from the Oberlin College site will not curtail the 50-year relationship with the College and the Allen Memorial Art Museum. In fact, the ICA and Oberlin College have reinitiated a formal educational relationship, establishing an undergraduate internship program to provide two internships per year over the next 10 years. This assures that a continued productive educational interaction will exist between both organizations' staffs, the institution and Oberlin's students. Our presence in Cleveland will also allow for the continued development of broadened public programming and productive educational relationships with other organizations such as the Cleveland Institute of Art and other cultural organizations committed to preservation of the City's and region's patrimony.

The facility will accommodate painting, paper and photograph, and object conservation spaces, digital media and documentation studio, library and conference room with audiovisual capabilities for workshops and symposiums, etc. Our increased space will more comfortably accommodate our Getty grant program and Andrew Mellon-supported advanced interns working in their areas of specialty with the ICA staff.

Regional Alliance for Preservation Mission Statement

The mission of the Regional Alliance for Preservation (RAP) is to provide comprehensive preservation information to cultural institutions and the public throughout the United States.

To accomplish this mission, we:

- ◆ cooperate as a national network of preservation/conservation organizations dedicated to reaching the broadest audience with our coordinated outreach efforts.
- ◆ disseminate information on the preservation of material culture through educational events, publications, referrals, and the RAP Web site.
- ◆ foster awareness about the importance of preserving our cultural heritage.



RAP Members thank Susan DuBois for her excellent leadership as guest editor of this issue.



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Regional field services offices offer a variety of workshops and training programs that can assist in the development and implementation of preservation planning efforts. For a listing of workshops and dates, contact your local regional field service or check the RAP Web site, www.rap-arcc.org.