

SPNHC Newsletter

Society for the Preservation
of Natural History Collections

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As spring time approaches I want to welcome everyone to another year of membership in the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections. After talking with many of you over the past few years I recognize the tremendous value that you add to your institutions and the public in general. As a rough estimate, SPNHC members are responsible for contributing to the care and management of over 100 million specimens in natural history collections. This provides a key component for understanding the biodiversity and evolution of the web of life- species that support the biosphere in which we live.

We all face challenges in our institutions that must be addressed in order to preserve and care for our collections. These challenges center around getting the most information from specimens for research and education while preserving the specimens for the future. We also have management issues around maintaining a safe, secure, documented and preserved collection within a limited budget.

How can this all be accomplished? One way is through knowing what other people have done that is successful. This can be done by communicating with your SPNHC colleagues. You can also keep up to date by visiting the SPNHC web site at <http://www.uni.edu/museum/spnhc/>. In addition, through discussions on NHCOLL, the SPNHC list server, you can be in constant contact with colleagues who face the same issues as you do. You can also keep your circle of contacts growing through the annual general meetings that occur in late spring or early summer each year.

The other way to tackle the challenges is through research in preservation, conservation, care and management of collections. What you learn can then be shared with others. Using the methods of discovery that you developed in school, college or university you can search for new solutions to the problems affecting natural history collections. Then you can communicate your results to your SPNHC colleagues through Collection Forum. You may also win the Faber Award to assist financially.

With both strategies you can learn more and make your job somewhat easier. Often we must set priorities about which

“problem” should be the highest priority since we can't solve everything at once. I am reminded that Ben Franklin said, “one vicious habit rooted out in time ought to make the worst person good”. By doing a collection risk assessment, and looking at your collection's bad habits, you will be able to determine what the highest priority should be. Then you can address them one at a time to make steady progress in collection care.

Sometimes urgent pressure also results in unusual solutions. At the Royal British Columbia Museum, we had to empty out a basement storage room containing large taxidermy mounts since construction of our National Geographic Theater required a concrete pillar to be poured right in the collection room. With no other space to use, we set up the mounts in a sparsely decorated entrance hall- kept sparse due to lack of funds for an “entrance exhibit”. Before we know it, we had hundreds of tourists per day taking pictures of our new “large mammal” entrance exhibit. This saved the potential damage of shipping specimens to the warehouse. And the construction got done too.

As an organization supporting you, SPNHC pledges to provide value to conservators and collections managers who deal with natural history collections. Your membership fee is one of the lowest for a museum related professional society. We offer quality publications at low cost. Our annual general meeting and workshop offer a chance to meet your colleagues and learn new techniques at an extremely modest price. We keep quality high and costs low because of the voluntary service provided by our membership. We are also managing within our budget and we plan to keep it that way.

With the SPNHC in great shape from an organizational perspective you may ask what our challenges are? We need more manuscripts for publication in Collection Forum in order to provide a flow of new ideas and information to you and your colleagues. You can help. Think of one conservation or collection care challenge that your organization faces. Set up a project to analyze and solve the problem. Dedicate one hour per day. And then write a short paper for Collection Forum. It is with your support that SPNHC will continue to thrive.

Grant Hughes, President

SCHEDULED CHANGES IN SPNHC LEADERSHIP

To keep things rolling in 1998 it is my pleasure to announce that our new Treasurer, Lisa Palmer, assumed her full duties on January 1st. Also joining the team is Kate Shaw (Managing Editor), Tim White (Newsletter Editor) and Mary Anne Andrei (Leaflets Associate Editor). Our thanks go out to those who have completed their terms: Julie Golden (Treasurer), John Simmons (Managing Editor), Stephen Williams (Newsletter Editor) and Sally Shelton (Leaflets Associate Editor).

Lisa Palmer works in collections management at the Smithsonian Institution Division of Fishes. As a Museum Specialist, she is responsible for transaction management (i.e. processing loans of fishes) and managing the Division's scientific illustration collection. Kate Shaw is currently the Collection Manager for ichthyology at the Kansas University Museum of Natural History. Tim White is from the Peabody Museum of Natural History at Yale University where he is the Collection Manager for the invertebrate paleontology. Mary Anne is an Editorial Assistant for the Papers of George Washington at the University of Virginia.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Society continues to thrive and we feel confident that the new projects being planned for 1998/99 can be easily supported from current funds. For 1997, members totaled 517 and subscriptions 120. Renewals are beginning to arrive and Lisa, who is just beginning her record-keeping duties might characterize it as a flood. Sales of the two Storage Books continue at almost the same pace as last year. One noticeable difference is that instructors are beginning to use the books for course work and sales of 10 or more copies at a time are becoming more common. We have in stock about 500 copies of Ideas and Practical Solutions and about 1000 copies of Preventive Conservation.

The Quality Management Workshop held during the Annual Meeting was a success thanks to the hard work of the Education and Training Committee and the teaching skills of Will Phillips and Mary Case of QM2. Support from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and a generous donation for 3 scholarships from Huntington helped make it possible. The Society sponsored one scholarship with funds from a private donor. Record-keeping for the Workshop was completed by Beth Merritt and Julia Golden; we came in under budget to IMLS, and all committed matching funds from the Society were used.

Transfer of the Treasurer's Office from Iowa City to Washington continues. The establishment of new accounts in Washington and permission to do business as a non-profit are nearing completion, and as of January 1, Treasurer Palmer

is handling all monetary transactions. Past-Treasurer Golden will continue to handle credit card charges for book sales until the new account is active (target date is March 1). In addition, all back issues (pre-1997) and books will be shipped from Iowa City. We hope that the transfer will be complete by April 15. Lisa expects to conduct more of the Society's banking business electronically and hopes to establish automated systems for generating periodic financial reports.

In accordance with Finance Committee's investment strategy, an account with Charles Schwab was established and a preliminary investment of \$10,000 was transferred to the money market account. Future investment funds will be appropriated as recommendations are received from the Finance Committee and Council.

*Lisa Palmer, Treasurer
Julia Golden, Past-Treasurer*

SPNHC IS COMING TO EDMONTON!

The University of Alberta, through the Department of Museums and Collections Services, will be hosting the 13th Annual Meeting, 25-30 May 1998. The University offers a network of natural history museums and collections, and expertise in a range of subject areas. Our collections of over 17 million objects, specimens and works of art, reflect the natural and human history of Western Canada and a diversity of other subjects areas. You'll have many opportunities to visit collections and participate in discussions with professors, curators, technicians and administrators who work with the University's collections.

We are particularly pleased to present Dr. Owen Beattie from our Department of Anthropology as the keynote speaker. Dr. Beattie is internationally known as the leader of the research team investigating Sir John Franklin's ill-fated expedition that went missing in 1845 while searching for the Northwest Passage.

This year's program features the addition of two interactive panel discussions and special interest group meetings (SIGS). SIGS are a new opportunity to talk in-depth with colleagues about specific natural history collection issues. We have planned a pre-conference trip to the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology, as well as behind-the-scenes tours to the University's natural history collections, the Devonian Botanic Garden and the Provincial Museum of Alberta. This year's workshop will be an interactive session on planning, implementing (and recovering) from a collections move. Finally, please ensure you note the 1 April deadline for submitting an abstract. This is your opportunity to participate in the meeting either by presenting a paper or a poster session.

So, do not miss this unique opportunity. Edmonton has

a lot to offer you and your family: a lush river valley with a well-developed trail system; numerous museums, historic sites, and science facilities; and shopping including the West Edmonton Mall and the historic Old Strathcona district. And don't forget to bring your denim and cowboy boots for The Great Edmonton Barn Dance - with live music, line-dance instruction, and of course, the limbo. Registration packages were mailed in January. If you would like more information, contact Lisa Barty at the Department of Museums and Collections Services at (403) 492-6271 or by email at lisa.barty@ualberta.ca. Also, check out our website www.ualberta.ca/MUSEUMS) for further conference details. Looking forward to seeing you next May at SPNHC '98 in Edmonton.

COLLECTIONS ON THE MOVE: STRATEGIES FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM

Following the annual meeting SPNHC will host the workshop *Collections on the Move: Strategies for the New Millennium* on Saturday, May 30, 1998. Using an interactive approach, this workshop will explore the movement of collection resources to new or upgraded, converted or purpose-built facilities. A diversity of issues will be examined including facility planning, logistics, collections management and conservation needs, and database tracking. The full range of museum personnel will find this workshop of interest. Coffee breaks, lunch, dinner and session workbooks are included in the fee for this full day workshop.

ADDRESS CHANGE

Please note, the official business address for SPNHC has changed to:

The Society for the Preservation of Natural
History Collections
P.O. Box 797
Washington, DC 20044-0797

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Members of the Resources Subcommittee are continuing their work on the Canadian version of the Resources Display Unit (RDU). It will make its debut at the meetings in Edmonton. The American version is being updated and maintained by Cindy Ramotnik. The American RDU has been requested for the Annual Conference of the Museum Association of Arizona at Flagstaff in the spring. Contact has also been made with the Registrars' Committee of the AAM re-

garding displaying the RDU at upcoming AAM meetings. The availability of the RDU was advertised in the last Newsletter, and will be advertised in future issues of Collection Forum as space allows.

The Conservation Committee has rationalized the assignment of publications among members to ensure a broader and more reliable coverage. Citations of recent articles from natural science and conservation literature which have a bearing on collections conservation and care have been prepared for publication in the winter Newsletter.

Paisley Cato, with the support and assistance of members of the Research Subcommittee, has written a grant proposal to NCPTT requesting funding for an investigation of research needs and priorities in natural history collections. If funded, the resulting publication will be a companion volume to those of NIC and AIC which will highlight the commonality of research needs across the fields of art, object and natural history conservation. It is hoped that this emphasis will encourage cooperative research among these communities.

Barbara Moore, Chair

ELECTION COMMITTEE

There is an old Chinese curse, "May you live in interesting times." While temporary demands at the Canadian Museum of Nature have pushed my regular work aside lately, unfortunately they pushed the SPNHC election straight into the path of the Ice Storm of 98. Our new building in Aylmer, Quebec had to be shut down for a week and a half to conserve power. As a result of all this, our election will finish about a month later than usual. The final date for postmark of ballots will be 28 February 1998, and I encourage you to use the fax option for returning your votes. I thank you all for your patience, and I especially thank my committee members for their support.

Judith Price, Chair

DOCUMENTATION COMMITTEE

The 1997-1998 SPNHC Annual Plan lists the following general objectives for the Documentation Committee. The committee will work to unify standards for collection management documents on institutional and disciplinary levels, cooperate with national and international organizations in establishing policies for sharing databases and facilitate access to information.

Paisley Cato, with the assistance of Julia Golden and Suzanne McLaren, continues to edit the glossary manuscript. Copies of the manuscript have been submitted to Council and volunteers for review. Paisley has also been resolving style and design issues with suggestions from John Simmons

and others, and has obtained estimates for printing. She is also drafting an introduction and acknowledgments section. Julia Golden has offered to complete the final edit, and Paisley expects the glossary to be published in 1998. Jackie Zak is working to secure permissions to use excerpts from published source material. During discussions with the Publication Committee at the Annual Meeting in July, a decision was made to postpone production of an electronic version of the glossary until a later date. Issues to resolve include whether such a product would be marketable, and whether to make the information searchable.

Lori Benson continues to manage the NHCOLL-L discussion list. Jackie Zak is working with Greg Brown to complete an internet form for submitting bibliographic citations. Once this is finished, committee members will begin submitting citations on documentation standards and guidelines for natural history collections. In addition to these results, committee members are also contributing to the SPNHC web site. Richard Rabeler is supplying Terry Vidal with electronic versions of abstracts from Collection Forum as well as abstracts of papers presented at past annual meetings.

Jackie Zak, Chair

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

The new year has seen a number of changes in the make-up of the Publications Committee. Tim White has agreed to serve as the Editor for the Newsletters, and Mary Anne Andrei has agreed to serve as the Associate Editor for the Leaflets. Thanks should be extended to Steve Williams and Sally Shelton who previously served so ably in these offices. In addition, I have replaced John Simmons as the Managing Editor and Chair of the Publications Committee. John Simmons served as the Managing Editor and Chair of the Publications Committee for the last 4 years. It is a tribute to his skill, diligence, and organization that SPNHC publications have maintained their high standard and excellence.

The next issue (Volume 13, issue 1) of Collection Forum should arrive any day now. The society has the resources to publish many more issues of our journal, but lacks enough manuscripts to do so. Members are encouraged to produce and submit manuscripts to Collection Forum, SPNHC Leaflets, and the SPNHC Newsletter. If you have ideas that you would like to see published in any of these venues, feel free to contact me. —Kate Shaw, SPNHC Managing Editor, Natural History Museum, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045-2454, USA; voice 785-864-3863; fax 785-864-5335; email fishes@ukans.edu.

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENTS

REGISTRAR

The **Cincinnati Museum Center** is seeking a Registrar to supervise records keeping, loan management and shipping for the collections of Museum Center. These collections encompass regional history (including archives, printed works, prints, photographs, moving images, sound recordings, and three-dimensional objects) and natural history (including archaeology, ethnology, wet and dry collections invertebrate zoology, vertebrate and invertebrate paleontology.) Duties include supervision of volunteers and occasional part-time staff, and acting as system supervisor for the computerized collections management system. Bachelor's degree and at least three years experience in registration or collections management required. Preference will be given to candidates with degrees related to history, natural history or museum studies; experience with USFW and USDA regulations and permitting, and familiarity with classic ARGUS. 40 hour week with flexible schedule required. Send cover letter, résumé and names of three references to: Kay Bolden-White, Director, Human Resources, Cincinnati Museum Center, 1301 Western Avenue, Cincinnati Ohio, 45203.

INFORMATION MANAGER

The Biodiversity Group at the **Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia** seeks an information manager. The Academy's natural history collections total more than 20 million specimens, about one quarter of which have been computerized. About 700,000 collection records are currently maintained in several database systems representing malacology, invertebrate paleontology, and general invertebrates (Paradox/DOS), entomology (FileMaker Pro/Macintosh), ornithology (FoxPro/DOS), ichthyology and herpetology (MUSE), and diatoms and frozen tissues (Access/Windows). We plan to integrate our databases in a single cross-platform application. Duties of the information manager will include: Guiding our choice of software for integrating our databases; Implementing normalized data structures in a PC/Macintosh LAN environment; Merging databases (including sound and image files) across disciplines; Designing and producing user interfaces; Ensuring security and integrity of data; Teaching curatorial staff to use database applications; Managing Internet servers currently running LINUX; Making collections data available via WWW; Coordinating with GIS lab based in Academy's Environmental Group; Coordinating with Biodiversity Group imaging center. Requirements include Minimum MS/BS in computer science or MS in biology or geology; Experience in curation of natural history collec-

tions; Knowledge of html and Internet database development, e.g., CGI scripting. Send cover letter, resume, and the names of three references to Dr. Gary Rosenberg, Malacology & Invertebrate Paleontology, Academy of Natural Sciences, 1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia, PA 19103-1195. Applications may be submitted electronically (rosenberg@acnatsci.org).

SEGREGATION OF TYPE SPECIMENS

In gathering information for an in-house project I posted a note on NHColl-L asking for opinions and information on the segregation of types as a risk-management technique. A lively on-line discussion ensued, and several respondents asked that a summary of the discussion be posted somewhere. For the benefit of SPNHC members not on NHColl-L, we thought to include that summary here.

The question posed was: what benefits or disadvantages arise from housing some specimens, for example types, separately? Replies came in from staff in entomology, herpetology, mammalogy, ornithology, diatom, invertebrate, fish, paleontology and herbaria, with almost all endorsing the practice. Several respondents pointed out that this technique, while most widely applied to type specimens, may be appropriate to other "high value" material as well. Cato in "Guidelines for Managing Bird Collections" (Museology #7, 1986) points out that extinct species are often treated this way as well. Advantages listed by respondents include:

- 1) *Increased control over access.* Several people cited segregation as a form of protection from unnecessary handling, including destructive sampling.
- 2) *Focusing resources (time, money).* Grouping type material enables staff to apply higher levels of care to a particularly important part of the collection if resources are limited. Several people reported it had been easier for them to justify funding for good cabinetry for types more easily than for the general collection. Segregation of types also allows staff to use their time effectively: monitoring types more frequently to check fluid levels, detect pest infestations, notice material overdue from loans, replace material stored in incorrect locations, and conduct inventory.
- 3) *Risk management.* Some of the advantages listed under focusing resources also result in lower risk. Better cabinetry may reduce the risk of loss from fire, earthquake, accidental discharge of fire suppression systems, or damage from environmental contaminants. In addition,

segregation of types may facilitate evacuation of material in preparation for or in response to a disaster. Cases, especially those equipped with castors or placed on low carts, can be quickly evacuated with limited special equipment. George Baumgardner, of the Texas Cooperative Wildlife Collection, notes that in when their collection, situated in a basement, flooded several years ago, all catalogued holotypes made it through the flood without getting wet, despite water that reach 3.5 feet in depth when they evacuated. This was because their bird and mammal types were segregated in a case on top of another case. George had time to wade in and pull the lower drawers of the type case and stack them on top. Anita Cholewa, Curator of the Herbarium at the Bell Museum of Natural History contributes a story she recalls from graduate school "of Alice Eastwood rescuing plant types during the San Francisco earthquake of 1903! Obviously these were separated from the main collection." Earle Spamer of the ANSP notes that the Academy's fossil types were place in one case during WWII in case they had to be moved on quick notice. After a disaster such as a fire, emergency services workers may allow collections staff inside the building for only a limited amount of time, as was the case after the fire at the 1991 fire at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

- 4) *Intellectual control.* Jay Cordiero, Collections Manager of the Department of Invertebrates at AMNH notes that with types concentrated, it is easier to count types accurately (which helps impress trustees!) and to prepare published type lists.

The only negative factor cited by some was a slight increase in inconvenience to researchers in having to access material in two locations. However, some people noted that segregating types actually aided researchers in finding the material they need. And all concurred that an explanation of the benefits of this method to the preservation of the collection would help offset any annoyance. Several voices of reason weighed in to urge common sense in assessing what is appropriate to a given collection, given its size, needs and resources. Rob Waller and Judith Price of Canadian Museum of Nature both point out that the benefit in risk management terms to segregation of types must be assessed in the context of a collection's needs and overall risk profile. Judith suggests staff consider the value of the specimens, degree and probability of risk (see Waller, Price and Fitzgerald, Collection Forum 12/2, 1996.)

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Please accept our sincerest apologies to those of you who have paid their dues by credit card. An unfortunate delay in processing credit card renewals has occurred due to establishing new bank accounts. All membership renewals that have been paid by credit card will be processed by the end of March. Contact the Treasurer if this poses to be a serious problem. We apologize for the inconvenience.

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

ENTOMOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS NETWORK

The Entomological Collections Network (ECN) held their annual meeting for 1997 at the Wyndham Garden Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee this past December 13 - 14, immediately preceding the Entomological Society of America annual meeting. The ECN program was organized by Gail Manning (Dallas Museum of Natural History) and John Heraty (University of California, Riverside) and was attended by more than 100 participants from five continents. The two day program included a series presentations on managing collections, "taxing problems in taxonomy" - donations and US, Canada, and British collection appraisal and valuation systems, permitting issues and database issues, Web and 3-D image management. The complete program and abstracts will be available at <http://iris.biosci.ohio-state.edu/newsletters/ecn/>; abstracts of previous meetings are currently available at this web site.

The ECN is a non-profit group dedicated to care and management of entomological collections. Annual meetings precede the Entomological Society of America annual meeting. There is no membership fee to belong to the ECN and anyone affiliated with an entomological collection is urged to attend. For more information visit <http://iris.biosci.ohio-state.edu/newsletters/ecn/>.

INTERNET RESOURCES

INTERACTIVE COLLECTIONS AVAILABILITY LIST

ICAL, the Interactive Collections Availability Lists for orphaned and understudied collections now has four World Wide Web sites. Sites have been developed for botany (<http://www.mobot.org/ical/>), entomology (<http://www.fmnh.org/Ical/>), invertebrates (<http://www.bishop.hawaii.org/ical/>) and paleontology (<http://www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/ICAL/>). Collections that are either orphaned and available for adoption by an institution, or underutilized and in need of further investigation can be registered with the appropriate site. Data-

bases of potentially orphaned and understudied collections exist at each site and are disseminated through independent listservers. It is the aim of ICAL to assure that scientific collections are placed in public repositories where they will be fully accessible for scientific research and education. All four ICAL sites have been supported by the National Science Foundation.

SOCIETY OF MINERAL MUSEUM PROFESSIONALS

Check out the Society of Mineral Museum Professionals at <http://www.lam.mus.ca.us/~smmp/>. The SMMP is an international organization of mineral museum curators and others with related interests. The current membership of approximately one hundred is predominantly North American in scope, but interested parties from around the world are encouraged to join. The objectives of society are to foster recognition of mineral science collections as essential scientific, educational and cultural resources; to promote support for the growth, maintenance and use of collections and exhibits and to advance museum practice through cooperation in the development, review and dissemination of information in pertinent fields, such as acquisition, storage, preservation, cataloguing, display, study and interpretation.

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

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- Walker, H. J., G. H. Burgess, A. Y. Suzumoto, C. I. Klepadlo, L. VanGuelpen, and J. M. Humphries, Jr. 1995. Isopropanol revisited. *American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists Curation Newsletter*, 11:3-4.
- Yates, S. A. 1997. Some considerations on water damage to museum collections. *Natural Sciences Conservation Group Newsletter* 6:(entry in Flood insert).

MEETINGS OF INTEREST

March 10-13, 1998. The Information Ecosystem: Managing the Life Cycle of Information for Preservation and Access at Archives II, College Park, Maryland.

Deadline for registration is February 27, 1998. For more information please contact Gay Tracy, Northeast Document Conservation Center, 100 Brickstone Square, Andover, MA 01810 (fax 978 -475 6021; email, tracy@nedcc.org).

April 12-15, 1998. "Museums and the Web" in Toronto, Canada.

For more information please see <http://www.archimuse.com/mw98>.

May 10-14, 1998. Annual Meeting of the American Association of Museums in Los Angeles.

For more information please contact AAM, 1575 Eye St., N.W., Suite 400, Washington, DC 20005 (telephone, 202-289-2113; fax, 202-289-6578) or visit <http://www.aamus.org>

May 15, 1998, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. First Annual Symposium In Honor of the Scientific Contributions of Laurence M. Klauber, "Herpetology of the Californias" in San Diego.

(Deadline for abstract submission is March 1, 1998. Send to Bradford Hollingsworth, email bholling@lasierra.edu.) For more information please contact Herpetology of the Californias, San Diego Natural History Museum, P. O. Box 1390, San Diego, CA 92112 (phone 619-232-3821, x235 or 226; fax 619-232-0248; email sshelton@sdnhm.org).

May 18-22, 1998. "The Conservation of Human Mummified Remains" in Arica, Chile.

For more information please contact Debra Meier, University of Nebraska State Museum, 307 Morrill Hall, 14th and U Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68588-0332 (fax, 402-472-8899; email, dmeier@unlinfo2.unl.edu).

May 25-30, 1998. 13th Annual Meeting of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections, "Collections on the Move: Strategies for the New Millennium" in Edmonton, Alberta.

For more information please contact Lisa Barty at the Department of Museums and Collections Services (phone, 403-492-6271; email, lisa.barty@ualberta.ca; website, <http://www.ualberta.ca/MUSEUMS/>).

May 27-31, 1998. 24th Annual Conference and Workshop of the Canadian Association for Conservation of Cultural Property (CAC) in Whitehorse, Yukon.

For further information please contact Margot Brunn Program Chair, CAC Conference '98 6826-111 Street,

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, T6H 3G3 (phone, 403-453-9167; email Mbrunn@med.gov.ab.ca; fax, 403-454-6629).

May 30-31, 1998. Canadian Association for Conservation of Cultural Property (CAC) Workshop, "Critical Issues in the Conservation of Ethnographic Collections" in Whitehorse, Yukon.

Directly follows the CAC Annual Conference (see above).

June 1-7, 1998. Annual Meeting of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works in Washington, DC.

For more information contact AIC, 1717 K Street, N.W., Suite 301, Washington, DC (fax, 202-452-9328).

August 2-4, 1998. Annual Meeting of the Association of Systematics Collections in Baltimore, Maryland.

For more information please contact ASC, 725 K Street, NW, Suite 601, Washington, DC 20006-1401 (phone, 202-835-9050; fax, 202-835-7334) or visit <http://www.ascoll.org/>.

September 7-11, 1998. International Congress of the International Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works in Dublin.

For more information please contact IIC, 6 Buckingham St., London WC2N 6BA, UK (fax, 44-0-171-976-1564; email iicon@compuserve.com).

September 23-26, 1998. Annual Conference of the Museum Computer Network in Santa Monica, CA.

(Deadline for proposals March 1, 1998.) For more information visit <http://www.mcn.edu>.

November 18-20, 1998. Second Conference on Partnership Opportunities for Federally-Associated Collections in San Diego.

(Deadline for abstract submissions, April 1, 1998). For more information please contact Sally Shelton, Director, Collections Care, San Diego Natural History Museum, P.O. Box 1390, San Diego, CA 92112 (phone, 619-232-3821, x226; fax, 619-232-0248; email, sshelton@sdnhm.org; website, <http://www.sdnhm.org>,

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and <http://www.doi.gov/pam/fedcolco.html>).

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