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SPNHC NEWSLETTER

**Society for the Preservation
of Natural History Collections**

March 2006
Volume 20, Number 1

Disaster Recovery in the Artifact Fields — Mississippi After Hurricane Katrina

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This article has been edited for length from the original article published by International Preservation News, No. 37, December 2005, pgs 35-47 (<http://www.ifla.org/VI/4/news/ipnn37.pdf>).

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Introduction

From 22-29 September 2005 a HEART (Heritage Emergency Assistance Recovery Team) made up of four members, Joy Barnett (Administrative Assistant, Texas Association of Museums), her son Ashley Barnett (Fire and Rescue, Burnet, TX), Gary Frost (Library Conservator, University of Iowa), and Randy Silverman (Preservation Librarian, University of Utah) arrived in Mississippi to assess collection damage to cultural institutions following Hurricane Katrina. Organized jointly by the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) and the American Institute for Conservation (AIC), this is a summary of the first Mississippi HEART team’s activities.

The Storm

Hurricane Katrina, packing 140 MPH winds, made landfall in Plaquemines Parish in Southern Louisiana on Monday 29 August 2005 as

a strong Category 4 hurricane. Four hours later, the hurricane, downgraded to a Category 3, touched land again near the Louisiana-Mississippi border sustaining diminished winds of 125 MPH. The storm surge, more than 25 feet in some locations, according to locals, exceeded Hurricane Camille’s 1969 surge by five to 10 feet or more.¹

The U.S. National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) ranks Hurricane Katrina “one of the strongest storms to impact the coast of the United States during the last 100 years,” and summarizes Katrina as “the most costly natural disaster to strike the United States ever and the deadliest since the Lake Okeechobee disaster (hurricane) of September, 1928 . . . As of September 26, the death toll stood at 1,075 and damage estimates were in excess of \$100 billion.”²

Arriving in Jackson, Mississippi, the HEART

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.....Disaster recovery*

team was greeted by unseasonably hot and muggy weather (85°F and 85% RH). Home was a small, rented recreational vehicle (RV) stocked with food, water, and bedding by Joy and Ashley and used by all for sleeping, cooking, and personal hygiene. A car was also rented to increase the team's mobility and responsiveness.

The Old Capitol Museum

The first stop was at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (the second oldest such department in the United States) housed in the state's historic capitol building. Approximately one-third of the Old Capitol's copper roof had been blown off the south end of the building, exposing the historic Senate Chamber and the Museum's collection storage to the hurricane's driving rain mixed with insulation, wet plaster and other building constituents.

Faced with wet collections and a leaking roof, the museum's staff rapidly and safely relocated 3,000 threatened collection objects. Affected materials were laid out to air dry on polyethylene sheeting spread on floors and over tabletops throughout the building, and included paintings, furniture, textiles, Choctaw baskets, swords, guns, and works of art on paper. As a result of the Museum staff's familiarity with the institutional disaster plan, serious damage was restricted to approximately 100 objects. When we arrived, a previously rolled, mural-sized oil painting lay unfurled on the polished stone floor, its image of Union soldiers rushing into battle under an upraised American flag flaking off the canvas.



Water-damaged mural, oil painting on canvas, Old Capitol Museum, Jackson, Mississippi: 23 September 2005. © G. Frost & R. Silverman

The assessment team helped the Museum draft a Letter of Inquiry to the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) in hopes of securing a \$30,000 grant directed at object-level

conservation treatment, and to develop adequate housings to protect collections during their move to temporary quarters while a new museum building is constructed. Repairs to the historic Old Capitol will be undertaken independently.

Laurel-Jones County Library

We visited the Laurel-Jones County Library Saturday (24 September) to address a reported mold outbreak. The modern, two-story concrete block library's genealogy collection was housed in a small, second-floor room where high humidity and a lack of airflow were palpable despite several operating floor fans. Synthetic, wood-grained wall paneling, a gypsum drop-tile ceiling, and baked enamel library shelving left little within the room to absorb ambient Mississippi moisture except the collection itself. Mold was blooming randomly on newer, buckram bindings, many of which also exhibited a white, waxy spue indicating the problem was not new. The team provided written recommendations for discontinuing weekend shutdowns of the heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC) system, especially during the humid summer and fall months. We also suggested ways to safely removing active mold and spue from buckram bindings using simple rubbing alcohol and white vinyl erasers.

Maritime and Seafood Industry Museum



Facade and building damage, Maritime and Seafood Industry Museum, Biloxi, Mississippi: 25 September 2005. © G. Frost & R. Silverman

Every disaster is unique; even in the aftermath of a regional catastrophe like Katrina each institution we visited posed fundamentally different problems. The Maritime and Seafood Industry Museum proved difficult to locate, as the city of Biloxi was trashed beyond recognition. Street signs were mostly down, buildings were in ruins, and the edge of every road was piled high with discarded wreckage. Heaps of broken boards, bricks, insulation and other building materials mixed with furniture, TVs, clothing, and picture frames were sobering re-

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Presidential Report

IRIS HARDY

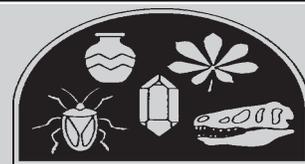
Geological Survey of Canada (Atlantic), 1 Challenger Drive, P.O.Box 1006
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada B2Y 4A2

The Evolution of SPNHC - continued...

A year ago I wrote that "SPNHC is an organization that continues to demonstrate innovative and exemplary approaches to improving the level of care provided to natural history collections throughout North America and around the world." As I approach the end of my term as your President, I have witnessed first hand how this organization has continued to grow and evolve. I was pleased to see that one of SPNHC's endeavours was well referenced in the just released Heritage Health Index Report on the State of America's Collections in January 2006 (www.heritagehealthindex.org or *A Public Trust at Risk: The Heritage Health Index Report on the State of America's Collections* and on this website to plan, improve, implement, or raise support for the care of collections; Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections, *Priorities for Natural History Collections Conservation Research: Results of a Survey of the SPNHC membership 2001*. G8 The Heritage Health Index Report). This project was considered to be the first comprehensive survey ever conducted to address the growing differences in the resources allocated for collections care for the nation's mega art museums, research libraries, regional archives and historical societies. After twenty years, the interconnectivity between our various institutions and with each other has finally been recognized and is paying off. One interesting find from their survey noted the lack of disaster preparedness, a common ailment noted on the survey responses. I hope that our colleagues, particularly those hit by Katrina last year who required access to remedial conservation practices, were not disappointed with the various hot links we were able to post on our website, particularly **Museum SOS**.

Much of the successes of SPNHC over the past two years, is directly attributable to the activities and accomplishments of the more than twenty Standing and Sessional committees and their continued substantial contributions by a knowledgeable, diverse group of professionals comprising SPNHC. It has been my mandate to promote more participation by our membership, so that we can continue to evolve, grow and provide important services to our general membership and fellow colleagues. This, at times, has been difficult to achieve as we continue to experience downsizing, amalgamation of institutions and collections, and ever decreasing resources to rely upon. SPNHC however, through its diverse committees, publications, and continued strong participation at annual meetings I think has continued to evolve, through the promotion of professional development and networking. I also think that over the next few years, we will experience a new wave of growth and worldwide recognition as we continue to provide the necessary resource data that many have come to rely upon and reference as noted above. Recent developments these past few months support this, including the soon to be released Health and Safety book, followed by the Museum Studies book later in 2006; a new SPNHC membership form which will be first disseminated at the upcoming AAM meeting to be held this coming April 2006 in Boston and consideration of becoming an affiliate member of AAM, which your Council will be discussing at some length at the next annual meeting. What I am looking forward to the most is the soon to be released newly updated SPNHC website (www.spnhc.org). I understand that much of the initial content management system has now been reviewed and implemented.

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The **Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections** was formed in 1985 and is recognized as a non-profit organization [501(c)(3)] in the United States. SPNHC members receive *Collection Forum*, a biannual journal of reviewed technical information, and two issues of the *SPNHC Newsletter* each year. The Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC) is a multidisciplinary organization composed of individuals who are interested in development and preservation of natural history collections. Natural history collections include specimens and supporting documentation, such as audio-visual materials, labels, library materials, field data, and similar archives. The Society actively encourages the participation of individuals involved with all aspects of natural history collections.

The **SPNHC Newsletter** (ISSN 1071-2887) is published twice a year, March and September, by the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections, c/o Division of Ichthyology, Natural History Museum & Biodiversity Research Center, University of Kansas, Dyche Hall, 1345 Jayhawk Boulevard, Lawrence, KS 66045-7561, USA.

Changes of address should be directed to Lisa Palmer, Treasurer, PO Box 797, Washington, DC 20044-0797; palmerl@si.edu.

Submissions are welcome. Please forward announcements, articles and notes to the Newsletter Editors by mail or email.

Deadline for the next Newsletter is August 1, 2006.

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.....Presidential Report

This will allow members even more privileges to better access up-to-date web content and will eventually enable special access to recent SPNHC publications and reviews.

Therefore, since these are exciting times ahead, I now ask you two questions in closing:

1. Did you vote? At the time of writing, ballots for the 2006 SPNHC Election have been mailed out and voting is open until 15 March 2006. Remember, this is your society and you need to participate to keep it strong and well.

2. Are you attending the next annual meeting, ***The Road to Productive Partnerships*** (<http://www.msb.unm.edu/meetings/SPNHC-NSCA2006/>), that we are jointly presenting with the Natural Science Collections Alliance (NSCA), co-hosted by the University of New Mexico Museum of Southwestern Biology and the US Geological Survey Arid Lands Field Station, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, May 23-27, 2006? If not, please consider a poster submission or co-author a paper with a colleague.

Again I remind you that this is your society and through you it will continue to grow and evolve.

Respectfully submitted,

Iris Hardy

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Conservation Committee Report

Resources Subcommittee

Subcommittee Co-Chairs:
Cindy Ramotnik (US) (ramotnik@unm.edu)
Janet Waddington (Canada) (janetw@rom.on.ca)

Janet Waddington would welcome offers of a new home for the Canadian Research Display Unit. Would anyone be interested in taking on the management and promotion of the RDU? This would be a great opportunity for a museum. Please contact Janet at janetw@rom.on.ca to discuss details.

Cindy Ramotnik reports that the United States RDU was utilized for a new course on the management of natural history collections taught at Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ, in September of 2005. In April 2006, it will be used during a course sponsored by the Department of the Interior on "Curating Natural History Collections" in Washington, DC, and

in May, it will be seen at the SPNHC/NSCA meeting in Albuquerque. Janet reports that the Canadian RDU has been booked for an April 2006 course on preventive conservation sponsored by the Ontario Museums Association.

Citations Subcommittee

Subcommittee Chair:
Marcia A. Revelez (mrevelez@ou.edu)

All members of the subcommittee have been working hard to put together a great list of citations for the newsletter. Citations were submitted by Victoria Book (VB), Diana Dicus (DD), Jennifer Holt (JH), Barbara Moore (BM), Joanna Morton (JM), Ann Pinzl (AP), Marcia Revelez (MR), John Simmons (JS), Steve Williams (SW), and Christina Wolfe (CW). Contributions, suggestions, and comments may be submitted to Marcia A. Revelez, Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, 2401 Chautauqua, Norman, OK 73072; (405) 325-7988 (voice); (405) 325-7699 (fax); mrevelez@ou.edu (e-mail) (see section, "Publications of Interest" for contact information).

Respectfully submitted,

Jude Southward (jsouthward@dmns.org)
Barbara Hamann (hamannb@carnegiemnh.org)

Publications Committee Report

I am pleased to be able to report some progress on Collection Forum.

Volumes 20 and 21 are nearing production. One of these will be a proceedings volume of papers submitted at the 2005 meeting in London, following the theme of "Standards." The papers for this volume are being guest edited by the meeting organizers, Giles Miller and Paul Davis. The other comprises papers received over the past two years, including several that were presented at the Eastern Analytical Symposium (more pesticide related papers) and directed our way through the efforts of Cathy Hawks. I am pleased also to welcome Linda Klise as an Associate Editor for Collection Forum. Leslie Skibinski, formerly SPNHC Leaflets Editor, has switched to being an Associate Editor for Collection Forum as well. As has unfortunately become the norm, the delay in publication of Collection Forum is due almost entirely to the lack of acceptable manuscripts submitted. This is your journal. Please support it. Check the web site for revised instructions to authors, or contact the Managing Editor for more information.

Another publications initiative in the works is the book "Museum Studies: Perspectives and Innovations" compiled by Stephen Williams and Catherine Hawks in memory of Carolyn Rose. At the time of writing this, the book is nearing page proof stage and should be published this year.

It will have 19 chapters and about 275 pages.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Waddington

Web Committee Report

COMING SOON! A Revamped SPNHC website at
www.SPNHC.ORG

Progress is being made towards the release of the newly updated SPNHC website. Most of the initial setup of the content management system (CMS) has been conquered and we are beginning to port over the main content. The CMS will allow members better access to up-to-date content and to more easily contribute to the content that is presented. In phase two of the upgrade, members will be able to update their contact information online, update their memberships more easily, and get special access to recent publications and other content. Thus membership will really have its privileges!

I would like to acknowledge the help of the web committee and council for support and feedback on the website upgrade. Also, I am indebted to Dan Mellott (Computer Applications Developer, Academy of Natural Sciences) and Paul Morris (Biodiversity Information Manager, Academy of Natural Sciences) for help with the technical side of installing and developing the components necessary for our new site. Thanks should also go to John Lundberg, Chair of Ichthyology at the Academy, for allowing us to host the new website on the AllCatfish web server.

It is important that we also recognize the years of service that Jon Greggs, the SPNHC webmaster, has contributed and to thank the Department of Geology and Geophysics at the University of Calgary, where Jon works, for hosting the SPNHC website. Jon will be stepping down as webmaster with the progression to the new site. Thanks again, Jon!

Please check back often to www.spnhc.org over the next few months to witness the transformation!

Respectfully submitted,

James Macklin, Chair

Visit SPNHC on-line at:



www.spnhc.org

Membership

Membership applications for individuals (US\$25), Libraries (US\$30) or Associate/Institutional (US\$50) may be submitted to:

Lisa F. Palmer, SPNHC Treasurer
P.O. Box 797
Washington, DC 20044-0797
USA

Be sure to include the following information:

Name, Discipline Specialty, Institution
Address (Street, City, State/Province, Country, Zip/Postal Code)
Voice, Fax, E-mail address

Payment may be made by cheque, money order, Visa or Mastercard.

Membership application/renewal form by portable document (Adobe Acrobat Reader required): <http://www.spnhc.org/renew.pdf>

Membership application/renewal form by Word file: <http://www.spnhc.org/renewal.doc>

Life Membership

The SPNHC Life Membership is a special membership category for those interested in the long-term financial stability of our organization. Life membership monies are invested towards the future goals of the Society. SPNHC life memberships are available for \$625. The fee is 25 times the Individual Membership rate, currently \$25. Life Memberships may be paid in one of three ways:

- (1) one-time payment of \$625;
- (2) two-year installments of \$350/1st year and \$275/2nd year;
- (3) three-year installments of \$300/1st year, \$200/2nd year and \$125/3rd year.

Please contact the Treasurer should you require further information about life memberships.

Lisa F. Palmer, Treasurer
National Museum of Natural History

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (SIG) REPORTS

Integrated Pest Management SIG

The IPM SIG was chaired by Adrian M Doyle, IPM coordinator for the Natural History Museum in London, England.

The 11 people present were from different backgrounds (small local museums, international institutes and independent) all with the common interest and need to understand what to do and where to go with setting up IPM policies, procedures, training and practice.

It was considered that the Natural History Museum has been very successful in integrating IPM into its policy structure as a result of a corporate risk review which characterized it as a corporate risk one (the highest corporate risk rating). This was enhanced by the removal of the pesticide (Dichlorvos) due to health and safety restrictions and enabled time and resources to be dedicated towards IPM throughout the whole Museum.

We discussed funding issues for implementation of IPM strategies and it was generally agreed that an IPM policy should be a standard in collections management (which includes loan policies), as well as part of accreditation.

We then had a roundtable discussion from all the members explaining how they ran an IPM policy (if they had one) and what they would like to achieve, as well as any particular issues at the moment.

Specifically, the following comments were made:

The American Museum of Natural History and the Swedish Museum of Natural History have IPM websites which are available to provide info to all interested parties.

The Natural History Museum IPM policy document was requested by several people to use as a basic standard and should be put on the Museum website.

There is a meeting in New York next year to discuss IPM issues and it was felt that input from the Natural History Museum (particularly regarding its training program) would be valuable.

I found the discussion lively, informative and useful and would like to thank everybody who participated. (A more detailed account of the discussions is available upon request).

Adrian M Doyle,
The Natural History Museum, London, England

Integrated Pest Management Working Group

One of the primary results of the 2005 Integrated Pest Management Working Group meeting is the creation of a website – www.museumpests.net - which is now live. The IPM Working Group is a group of museum professionals concerned about IPM issues, who meet on an ad hoc basis.

While much of the site is still a work in progress, the group has developed a questionnaire to assess the needs of the museum community with regards to Integrated Pest Management. The goal is to survey the current status of pest management in institutions and determine what is needed to improve that effort. This feedback will allow participants at future IPM Working Group meetings to more specifically meet the IPM goals of the museum community.

All information gathered in this questionnaire is confidential; the names of individuals and institutions that participate will not be posted. A compilation of results and statistics will be posted on the www.museumpests.net website for the benefit of all readers after the upcoming 2006 IPM Working Group meeting.

As an extra incentive (as if helping the cause of museum pest management were not enough) the first 50 people to complete and return their questionnaire will receive a free identification poster entitled "Common Museum Pests of North America", courtesy of Insects Limited, Inc. In order to receive the poster all identifying information must be filled out (i.e. name, institution, mailing address, etc.).

Feedback on the site can be sent to Rachael Perkins Arenstein at rachaelarenstein@hotmail.com. Please put "IPM website" in the subject line or messages will not be opened. Thank you for your input.

Practical deliverables from the previous two meetings include the www.museumpests.net website; the museum pest mailing list; an on-line questionnaire about pest management practice and needs in museums; and the inclusion of IPM Special Interest Groups at the 2003, 2004, and 2005 SPNHC meetings.

Brooklyn Botanic Garden Herbarium exchange material

The Brooklyn Botanic Garden Herbarium has a wealth of material available for exchange due to recent collecting and herbarium work by our scientists. We are looking for additional

exchange partners who are interested in receiving specimens from us and who can send us good recent or historical material in return.

We have two types of material available:

- Recently collected specimens from the eastern United States. In the past year, we have collected extensively in southern New Jersey and the New Jersey Pine Barrens and less intensively in northwestern New Jersey and southern New York State as part of our work in floristics and conservation.

- Mounted historical specimens from New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and the western United States. We have an NSF funded project to database our specimens from NY, NJ, and CT and have been using this opportunity to remove the good duplicates from the collection. Most of the specimens are by L. Lighthipe, W. Van Sickle, O.P. Phelps, and others who collected in NY, NJ, and CT between 1885 and 1920. We also have some duplicates of specimens from the Western United States by A. A. Heller, H. K. Svenson, J. M. Bates, E. Hall, O. Brown and others.

Please email to kbarringer@bbg.org if you are interested. We can be flexible in the terms and the number of specimens sent.

Those of you who already exchange specimens with us need not reply. We will be sending you our usual winter shipment in the next few weeks and we look forward to getting more of the great specimens you have been sending us.

Kerry Barringer, Curator, Herbarium, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 1000 Washington Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11225-1099; (718) 623-7318 (office); (718) 941-4774 (fax); kbarringer@bbg.org; <http://www.bbg.org/>

AWARDS, ACCOLADES AND GRANTS

Nominations are open!!

Every year SPNHC shows its appreciation to some of its hard-working members with awards and grants. But in order to receive an award, a member must first be nominated. Get the details from the SPNHC website, or contact me directly. All nominations should be sent to me at:

Jean DeMouthe, Calif. Academy of Sciences, 875 Howard St, San Francisco, CA 94103, or by e-mail to jdemouthe@calacademy.org.

Questions? Call me at (415) 321-8258.

Virginia Museum of Natural History CineMuse high-definition cinema

The new Virginia Museum of Natural History in Martinsville will be the first site in the state to offer CineMuse high-definition digital cinema. Beginning in late 2006, the new museum's theater will feature short programs about science and nature using the highest-quality digital video. A new show, typically 20-30 minutes long, will be shown in the new museum's theater every three months. Construction of the new museum is expected to be substantially completed in early 2006. Staff will move into the new museum in July 2006. By late 2006, the public and school groups will be able to visit the special exhibit gallery, theater, education center, and library. The new museum's world-class permanent exhibits will open to the public in early 2007. For more information, contact:

Jill K. Harris, Registrar, Virginia Museum of Natural History, 1001 Douglas Avenue, Martinsville, VA 24112
Direct phone: (276) 666-8618; General phone: (276) 666-8600;
Fax: (276) 632-6487; jillharr@vmnh.net

New home and name for the Pratt Museum of Natural History at Amherst College

"Leaving behind its distinctive and eccentric Victorian home since the 1940's, in late December 2005, the Pratt Museum of Natural History at Amherst College began to move into a newly designed and constructed building on the other side of campus. This marked the end of the Pratt Museum and the beginning of the Amherst College Museum of Natural History. This is more than just a name change, but is truly the creation of a new museum; one with several new exhibits, updated storage facilities, and research space for visiting scholars.

Now that we are almost completely moved into the new building, we understand that the year and a half we spent packing was just the beginning. Unpacking of the Vertebrate Paleontology collection is nearly completed, and the remaining nine collections will continue to be unpacked over the next several months. Nearly all of the slabs in the new Hitchcock Ichnology collection exhibit have been hung, and fabricators are busily constructing mounts and installing casework. Although still a bustling work zone, we are pleased that the move has gone very smoothly and we are looking forward to opening in June of this year." For more information contact:

Kate Wellspring, Collections Manager, Amherst College Museum of Natural History, Amherst College, Amherst, MA 01002; (413) 542-2165; kwellspring@amherst.edu

Continued from page 3:
Hurricane Katrina

minders that the material possessions of thousands of people had been reduced to roadside litter in a matter of hours. Some houses were simply flattened, with three or four front steps still standing before a vacant foundation. Restaurants, gas stations, and hotels had been shoved off their foundations or were missing windows, roofs, or outer walls. The hulls and superstructures of Biloxi's huge offshore gambling casinos, picked up and hurled shoreward by the storm surge, set like beached whales, their steel hulls punctured from collisions with buildings, the walls ripped open to expose slot machines and chandeliers.



Ashley Barnett sitting on a tree that battered the Maritime and Seafood Industry Museum, Biloxi, Mississippi: 25 September 2005.
 © G. Frost & R. Silverman

Passing through a military checkpoint, we finally located the Maritime and Seafood Industry Museum on the waterfront facing the destroyed US 90 bridge that once spanned Biloxi Bay. The Museum had experienced catastrophic damage. Only the facade of the 1934 National Register building, a portion of roof, and a section of the second story remained standing. Trees had been driven torpedo-like through the outer walls by a 26-foot storm surge; collapsed brick and mortar were strewn across the grounds. Two of the Museum's historical fishing boats, evacuated upriver to the head of Biloxi Bay, sustained above-deck damage. Another was located and recovered from the middle of a pile of rubble half-a-mile away. Others remained unrecovered while the bulk of the Museum's collection was scattered in a several-block radius in what was termed the "artifact field," now exposed to outdoor weather conditions or were buried under the Museum's collapsed slab roof.

Beauvoir, Jefferson Davis' Home and Presidential Library

The raised cottage-style Jefferson Davis Home and Presidential Library situated 500 feet from the Gulf and constructed 1848-1851, has weathered 22 previous hurricanes. Its brick pilings are high enough that even Katrina's tidal surge couldn't topple the structure, restricting damage to the wrap-around porches (missing except in the back), the roof (now patched

with a tarp), and several front windows that had admitted water to the front rooms. Two contemporary cottages, the Library Pavilion and the Hayes Pavilion as well as The Confederate Veterans Home Hospital, built with triple-thick brick walls in 1924, and Director Patrick Hotard's nearby home were also razed by the storm. The new Jefferson Davis Presidential Library, dedicated in 1998, sustained major damage to the first floor. The storm surge swept the collection through the Museum's shattered walls and windows and scattered artifacts well beyond the property's 52-acres.



Beauvoir, Jefferson Davis' home, missing its wrap-around porch, Biloxi, Mississippi: 25 September 2005. © G. Frost & R. Silverman

Four days before our visit, wet historic furniture and movable artwork from Davis' home had been removed for storage in environmentally-controlled conditions to the State Archives in Jackson. Rare books and manuscripts, remaining in good condition in the second floor Library above the high water mark, were relocated to the McCain Library at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattisburg the day of our arrival.

Secluded at the back of the second floor and remaining exceedingly hot and humid, the Library's remaining archives collection was producing minimal mold growth due to the constant scour of Gulf breezes passing through the building. Nearly four weeks following the storm we were still able to open up wet books and documents and successfully spread them out to dry with little sign of damage.

The assessment team drafted Letters of Inquiry to NEH for emergency funding for both the Maritime and Seafood Industry Museum and Beauvoir to enable them to hire a temporary workforce capable of excavating, packing, and cataloging scattered artifacts to stabilize collections.

Old Spanish Fort Museum

This one-room local museum in Pascagoula had been inundated by approximately two feet of water, but the building had not been opened up since the storm. An oozy layer of mud covered the museum's floor and standing water remained inside ceramic pitchers and iron kettles, marking the flood's

highwater mark. The surfaces of many organic objects such as leather bookbindings, cotton carpetbags, and a leather saddle were coated with five or six varieties of thickly conjoined fungi forming a fuzzy mosaic in rusty red, olive brown, ocher, raw sienna, and black. The tiny building included two doors and six double-hung windows that, with considerable effort, were opened to create a bit of cross-ventilation despite the swollen wooden frames. Far greater microorganism growth was observed inside closed exhibit cases; wearing respirators and nitrile gloves, we opened the glass doors and moved organic materials to staging areas to air dry. A small card catalog discovered within a closed metal box was opened up and the cards staggered to encourage drying.



Molded cloth bag inside the Old Spanish Fort Museum, Pascagoula, Mississippi: 26 September 2005. © G. Frost & R. Silverman

At the Old Spanish Fort Museum, the excessive mold bloom was nurtured by a lack of air movement exacerbated by windows that remained sealed weeks after the storm. While institutional security remained a concern, collection artifacts invariably needed outside air or they suffered badly. We came to realize that nineteenth-century storm shutters afforded greater utility than twenty-first century plywood board-ups. Hinged at the top, the older design could be closed quickly for protection in response to inclement weather, and readily reopened as weather conditions changed.

Biloxi Public Library

Inside this modern concrete and glass library situated one block from the Gulf, a couple of windows, staved in during the storm surge and now boarded up, had admitted six-to-eight inches of pine needles, leaves, and other botanic flotsam, carpeting the first floor. Snakes, although rumored to be present and thought to be water moccasins proved impossible to spot. The interior space was surreal; the soft layer of brown pine needles transformed the soggy carpet into an indoor primordial jungle reminiscent of Maurice Sendak's *Where the Wild Things Are*.

This institution provided us with clear insights into mechanisms that stimulate or suppress mold growth in real-world

disaster situations. Tellingly, after four weeks of sitting in this hot, humid storehouse, the library stacks remained relatively mold free. The two-story ceiling throughout most of the building created a huge body of air that seemed to "breathe" slightly. Conversely, this library's local history collection, tucked inside a very confined room with only one door and little air movement, fostered active mold growth.



Gary Frost and librarian Jamie Bounds Ellis inside the Biloxi Public Library, Biloxi, Mississippi: 27 September 2005. © G. Frost & R. Silverman

It became clear that Tyvek envelopes used for enclosing single rare pamphlets nurtured mold by trapping moisture between the Tyvek and the object. Similarly, closed glass exhibit cases, glazed, wall-mounted pictures, and closed map drawers produced humid micro-environments that fostered mold spore germination. By contrast, paper envelopes stored in the same box wicked water away from the artifacts, thereby minimizing mold growth. Water-soaked material spread out to dry on polyethylene-covered work surfaces also trapped moisture between the plastic and the object, producing mold or, in the case of some metal objects, rust. Inserting newspaper or craft paper between the polyethylene and the wet object helped stimulate evaporation, thereby improving drying.

After weeks of negotiations, the Head Librarian was permitted by the Library's Board to contract with Munters (Chicago, IL), who packed the local history and circulating collections onto freezer trucks, for travel to Chicago for vacuum freeze drying and sterilization using gamma radiation.

University of Southern Mississippi, Gulfport Campus

On our final day in the field, we visited the University of Southern Mississippi, Gulfport Campus in Long Beach. The library itself had received about a foot of standing water on the main floor. Stacked in the front yard were large piles of insulation. Inside, contractors were ripping out now-moldy wallboard up to the four-foot level.

The University's microfiche and its small Heritage Library collections had molded. Fearing the rest of the collection would

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.....Hurricane Katrina

be contaminated if the two were mixed, the librarians left things as they were, in effect, quarantined. In general we noticed this inappropriate “germ theory” of mold propagation applied where mold had prospered due to the inappropriate fear that air circulation would spread the bloom. In fact, the opposite approach was needed and we looked for ways to encourage ventilation to help dry moldy material. We also demonstrated that handling moldy books while wearing respirators and disposable gloves was a safe protocol.

We connected small fans to the working power source on the second floor to generate air movement. We then laid down a brown craft paper work surface on an available Formica counter, opened books up to encourage evaporation, aired out microfilm cabinets, and removed craft paper backings from hanging pictures to promote air circulation. Finally, we discussed with staff the removal of dried mold residue using High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filtered vacuums once the bloom had become dormant.

A National Safety Net for Collections

Dealing with collections offered little reprieve from experiencing the effects of human tragedy. Mississippi’s local population was in crisis. People had died, both immediately and as a result of interrupted critical care services. Many residents had lost their homes, belongings, and employment. Many stood in long lines near Red Cross tents seeking water and food rations. It was disheartening to see the social and cultural infrastructure so wounded. We were pleased to have had the chance to help a little, but we left knowing much more needs to be done, immediately and in the future. All four Letters of Inquiry advanced for submission to NEH by the HEART Mississippi team were funded. It would be wonderful if other charitable organizations followed NEH’s lead, because much more is needed.

Katrina’s aftermath underscores for us the national need for a robust emergency response plan to deal with the salvage of cultural materials. Our visit came almost four weeks following the storm. Surely we could have been more effective had we arrived on the scene two weeks earlier, or even on the third day.

Reviewing our experiences, we began envisioning mobile job-site trailers outfitted with collection stabilizing gear already on board. Such units could operate for days at a given location providing local outreach and assistance to private as well as institutional collections. We recognized the need for standing agreements with funding agencies to support emergency recovery efforts. Cooperative relations between relevant national organizations (e.g., AASLH, AIC) could standardize the training and selection criteria for potential volunteers – conservators, museum professionals, life-safety personnel, and students enrolled in conservation training programs – to ensure teams are ready to roll into action with the first responders.

Relevant national associations (e.g., American Association of Museums, American Library Association, Society of American Archivists) could take on supporting roles such as maintaining lists of members and nonmembers within each state to expedite the process of determining which institutions need condition assessment. Several appropriate contacts per institution should be listed, including home and cell phone numbers. Such organizations could coordinate onsite hosting of mobile conservation units, providing clearance to use vacant institutional parking lots.

According to Gerry Bell, lead meteorologist for NOAA’s Atlantic Hurricane Seasonal Outlook, “warmer-than-normal sea-surface temperatures and low wind shear” are factors contributing to this season’s “stronger and more numerous storms.”³ With 2005 on record as the most active hurricane season in recorded history, NOAA predicts we are now entering a 20-30 year cycle of increased tropical storm activity.⁴ In combination with other types of natural and manmade disasters, this warning should provide ample incentive to begin formulating national and international response plans to harness the good will of knowledgeable practitioners to ensure irreplaceable cultural collections are not needlessly lost.

^{1,2} Axel Graumann, et. al., “Hurricane Katrina, a climatological perspective: preliminary report,” National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration National Climatic Data Center, Technical Report 2005-01, October 2005, <http://lwf.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/reports/tech-report-200501z.pdf> (7 November 2005).

^{3,4} National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, “NOAA Raises the 2005 Atlantic hurricane season outlook: Bulk of this season’s storms still to come,” <http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2005/s2484.htm> (7 November 2005).

THE GETTY FOUNDATION TO HELP REVITALIZE NEW ORLEANS CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

\$2 Million Getty Grant Fund to Support Visual Arts Organizations and Preservation Projects

NEW ORLEANS -The Getty Foundation, one of the country’s largest philanthropic supporters of the visual arts, has launched a special initiative to assist New Orleans visual arts institutions as they recover from the impact of Hurricane Katrina. In an effort to help renew and restore the Crescent City’s vibrant

cultural scene, the Getty Foundation has established a \$2 million fund to aid the city's visual arts organizations.

"New Orleans is an extraordinary city; its arts and architecture are cherished by people all over the world," says Deborah Marrow, director of the Getty Foundation. "The Getty is committed to assisting the recovery efforts of the organizations that care for the city's collections and historic properties."

The Getty Foundation's Fund for New Orleans will enable nonprofit arts organizations to apply for support in two areas: Conservation Grants are designed to assist the city's cultural institutions to care for their art collections and archives, historic buildings, and landscapes; Transition Planning Grants are aimed at strengthening nonprofits as they respond to the changed environment for the arts following the storm.

The city's existence as well as its cultural economy was threatened by the hurricane. Dedicated to promoting and conserving the visual arts, the Getty's Fund for New Orleans recognizes that increasing cultural tourism is an important part of the recovery effort.

This is not the first time that the Getty Foundation has lent its support to the Hurricane-damaged Gulf Coast region. Shortly after the storm, the Getty Foundation funded the launch of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's recovery and outreach efforts in the devastated region. The grant covered the expenses necessary to organize and deploy volunteer teams of architects, conservators, and engineers to Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi to assess the damage caused to historic buildings and districts by the storm and flooding. This work served as an essential first step in preserving and rebuilding the area's towns and neighborhoods.

Of this collaboration, Richard Moe, president of the National Trust, says, "We have had an incredible partnership with the Getty Foundation and applaud their ongoing efforts to help this city, which is one of our nation's most authentic, historic cultural centers."

The Getty Foundation's Fund for New Orleans reaffirms its commitment to philanthropy in New Orleans. While this special fund has been designed to provide concentrated assistance in New Orleans, the Foundation will also consider support through its regular grant categories for other organizations in the region that were impacted by Hurricane Katrina. In addition to the grant fund, Getty staff members will also lend their expertise to selected conservation or transition planning projects.

The J. Paul Getty Trust is an international cultural and philanthropic institution devoted to the visual arts that features the Getty Conservation Institute, the Getty Foundation, the J. Paul Getty Museum, and the Getty Research Institute. The J. Paul Getty Trust and Getty programs serve a varied audience from two locations: the Getty Center in Los Angeles and the Getty Villa in Malibu.

Additional information is available from the Getty media contact, Beth Brett, Getty Communications Department, (310) 440-6473; bbrett@getty.edu or on the Getty Web site at www.getty.edu.

NEW GUIDE HIGHLIGHTS DISASTER RELIEF FOR CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

Federal grants for preparedness, response, and recovery are featured

A new resource from the Heritage Emergency National Task Force identifies federal funding to help make an emergency plan, buy disaster supplies, or train staff for next year's hurricane season. *Before and After Disasters: Federal Funding for Cultural Institutions* provides information on 15 federal grant and loan programs to help cultural institutions and historic sites prepare for and recover from disasters.

Before and After Disasters was produced by Heritage Preservation with support from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the National Endowment for the Arts. Before the guide was printed, the Task Force made it available electronically as a Hurricane Resource to help victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. These resources are located at:

<http://www.heritagepreservation.org/PROGRAMS/TFHurricaneRes.htm>.

The programs described in *Before and After Disasters* help nonprofit arts centers, archives, conservation and historic preservation organizations, historical societies, historic sites, libraries, museums, and theaters, among others.

Before and After Disasters is an updated and expanded version of *Resources for Recovery*, last issued in 2000. The new booklet covers programs for planning and mitigation as well as recovery. The agency profiles contain information on eligibility and funding levels and include practical examples. A selection of on-line resources helps institutions find professional conservation expertise for their collections and the communities they serve.

Up to 50 copies of *Before and After Disasters* can be ordered at no charge from the FEMA publications office. Phone (800) 480-2520 and ask for FEMA publication #533. The 32-page booklet can also be downloaded from Heritage Preservation's Web site at:

<http://www.heritagepreservation.org/PDFS/Disaster.pdf>.

*Continued from page 11:
..... Disaster relief*

The Heritage Emergency National Task Force has helped to make disaster preparedness and response a higher priority for cultural heritage organizations across the country. The Task Force—an initiative of Heritage Preservation and the Federal Emergency Management Agency—is a partnership of 40 government agencies and national service organizations. Learn the latest information on hurricane recovery efforts and find valuable disaster resources at the Task Force Web site, www.heritageemergency.org.

Questions? E-mail TaskForce@heritagepreservation.org or call (202) 233-0800.

AATA Online: Abstracts of International Conservation Literature

AATA Online: Abstracts of International Conservation Literature is an unparalleled resource for professionals in all facets of conservation of material cultural heritage research and practice.

AATA Online includes:

- More than 100,000 abstracts, with new abstracts of both current and historical conservation literature added quarterly.
- Abstracts of articles relevant to conservation from over 470 journals representing a wide variety of subjects.
- All 36 volumes of Art and Archaeology Technical Abstracts (AATA) and its predecessor, IIC Abstracts, issued from 1955 to 2002.
- Over 1,600 abstracts published between 1932 and 1955 by the Fogg Art Museum and the Freer Gallery of Art.
- All of the original AATA special subject supplements and additional supplements added since going online.

Produced by the Getty Conservation Institute (GCI) in association with The International Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (IIC), and with ICCROM (International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property), AATA Online is a resource created “by the field, for the field.”

AATA Online relies on a network of volunteer abstractors to cover the literature of the field. The breadth, depth, and timeliness of coverage ultimately depend upon the level of participation by conservation professionals.

Submissions are fully reviewed by subject specialists before being posted.

There are a variety of ways to contribute to AATA Online:

- Search AATA Online to be sure all of your own publications are covered. If one of your publications is missing, submit an abstract.
- Take “assignment” to review one or more serial titles and submit abstracts (either author abstracts or original abstracts that you write) on a regular basis. Contact the AATA Online office for help in “adopting” a journal.
- Write abstracts for unique titles (such as a monograph or technical report) that you come across in the course of your work. Always search AATA Online first to be sure the publication has not already been covered. If you need assistance, the AATA Online office maintains a list of titles we need to have abstracted for AATA Online.

Abstracting Guidelines are available from the AATA Online office and our staff can answer any questions you might have about contributing.

Items to be abstracted should be locally available to the contributor. The AATA Online office cannot usually send out publications to contributors.

Recognition:

Contributing to AATA Online, the field’s authoritative reference work, enables you to contribute to the continued growth of the field. The items you abstract will be available to your colleagues around the world, and your contributions will advance another conservator’s research or help him or her solve a practical problem.

Active contributors are recognized on the AATA Online website and periodically in Conservation, The GCI Newsletter; and they are invited to recognition events hosted by GCI for AATA Online contributors at major conservation conferences.

The GCI, IIC, and ICCROM invite you to join its network of volunteer abstractors and become actively involved in strengthening AATA Online.

For additional information about using AATA Online, please visit the AATA Online Web site (www.aata.getty.edu) or contact the AATA Online office today at: abstracts@getty.edu.

Visit SPNHC on-line at:



www.spnhc.org

LINNE: Legacy Infrastructure Network for Natural Environments



The natural history collections of the world constitute an enormous legacy with tremendous potential to address major scientific questions and societal challenges. Yet, such fundamental questions as “What are the Earth’s species and how do they vary?” remain unanswered despite hundreds of years of cataloguing biodiversity. Much of the collections and data necessary to answer these questions already exist in natural history collections, and it is up to today’s taxonomists to develop a mechanism that will finally allow us to access the specimens and data in an efficient and effective way. Over 80 scientists, mostly chosen by professional societies, attended one or more of a series of workshops and meetings funded by the U.S. National Science Foundation in 2003 and 2004 to develop a vision for the future on natural history collections. The vision that we developed is LINNE.

The goal of LINNE is to accelerate taxonomic research and improve biological collection infrastructure so that reliable information on biological diversity is available to all branches of science and society. LINNE will be an interactive network of taxonomists and institutions incorporating the latest technologies to seamlessly link researchers with other scientists, biological collections and other research facilities, and state-of-the-art instruments for efficient species discovery, description, identification, and classification. LINNE will transform taxonomy and make comprehensive information on the world’s species easily accessible to researchers, educators, and decision-makers who depend on a comprehensive knowledge of biological diversity to inform their decisions.

With LINNE, fundamental questions in biology will be answered, including: What are Earth’s species, and how do they vary? How are species distributed in geographical and ecological space? What is the history of life on Earth, and how are species interrelated? How has biological diversity changed through space and time? What is the history of character transformations? What factors lead to speciation, dispersal, and extinction? The nodes of the LINNE network will be existing institutions with biological collections and taxonomic research programs. The network will be distributed across the nation, and resources at each node (e.g., specimens, images, literature, and molecular data) will be available to researchers, educators, and policy-makers everywhere via the Internet. LINNE will modernize infrastructure for taxonomic research, enhance the nation’s taxonomic workforce, modernize collection facilities, and update and verify specimen identifications. LINNE will support and benefit from linkages to a wide range of activities in ecology, ecosystem science, bioinformatics, information sciences, geology, land planning, and resource management, including NEON (National Ecological Observatory Network), GBIF (Global Biodiversity Information Facility), and CHRONOS (an Interactive Network of Data and Tools for Earth System History).

Taxonomists and curators are faced with many challenges in garnering support and maintaining collections. These challenges need to be faced head-on. As a community we must embrace the opportunities that modern technology can provide and work together to make our specimens, data, and expertise widely available. When large and small collections are all seamlessly linked to one another, specialists from anywhere in the world will have access to the complete range of data they need to perform their research with efficiency that we can only dream of today. Imagine if a specialist from a small university in Idaho had instant online access to all the specimen data, images, annotation histories, and every published article, including original descriptions of the organisms that she studied. More data would be available to her with a few mouse clicks than we could currently access in years of traveling, arranging loans, and begging for information. The need to study some materials in person will never be overcome, but combine these online data with the ability to arrange for access to remote controlled microscopes to observe critical specimens, and the number of specimens that she could study and expertly identify increases exponentially. We will need to develop new ways of handling such large amounts of data. Perhaps developing technologies, such as digital recognition software could be applied to some kinds of specimens? We need to think outside the box, and integrate technologies that we have not thought of applying, or that do not exist yet, into our research endeavors. Doing our science the same old fashioned way will mean that it will take us hundreds of years more to even be able to say with confidence that we have named 90% of the biota of the planet. That is simply too long. It is time for us to both demand that we get the resources we need to do our job, and for us to critically evaluate how we can do our job more effectively. LINNE will be the bridge to the future for taxonomic science.

Currently, the steering committee of LINNE is seeking funding to host a series of workshops to get further input from the taxonomic community about the structure and operation of LINNE, along with input from scientists in other areas that we must partner with to be successful, such as computer science, engineering, information technology and education. Please visit the LINNE website for more information (<http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/linne/>) or email me at alan@msu.edu for a copy of the LINNE brochure which explains in more detail the goals and mechanics of LINNE.

Alan Prather, Michigan State University; Larry Page, University of Florida; Vicki Funk, Smithsonian Institution

FAQs about “Kaiserling III” fluid preservative

Because of the growing interest in non-hazardous alternatives for formalin, iso-propanol, and ethanol, I was asked to share my experience with Kaiserling III, a fluid preservative commonly used for the preservation of pathological specimens. Below is a compilation of the most frequently asked questions that were sent to me in the last year. I hope my answers to these questions will positively contribute to the ongoing discussion about health and safety issues concerning the storage and transport of fluid preserved collections.

What is Kaiserling III?

Kaiserling III is a 20-30% glycerol/water solution buffered with 10-20% sodium acetate and is part of the 3-step Kaiserling method introduced by the German Dr. Kaiserling in the late 19th century:

Step 1: Fixation with Kaiserling I:

- 200ml saturated formalin (37-40%)
- 30g potassium acetate
- 15g potassium nitrate
- 1000ml de-mineralized water

Step 2: Rapid development of blood color with Kaiserling II (optional):

- 80-95% ethanol (1-8 hours until color is most intense).

This step is not necessary when rapid reviving of color is not an issue and is not recommended for specimens susceptible to shrinkage due to the dehydrative effects of high concentrations of ethanol on cell membranes. If necessary this process can be conducted by staging the specimen through ever increasing ethanol concentrations of equal increase in concentration from 50 to 80%.

Step 3: Storage in Kaiserling III

If step 2 is not used, redevelopment of blood color can take up several months. The pH of the solution plays an important role in blood color stability and should preferably be slightly alkaline at between 7.3 and 7.8. Monitor pH closely as tissues may begin to clear at pH 7.0 and above.

How hazardous is Kaiserling III?

The 20-30% glycerol in Kaiserling III is decidedly lower in toxicity than formalin and less flammable than ethanol but is none-the-less still toxic and flammable. If 0.2% formaldehyde is added (as sometimes suggested to prevent fungal or bacterial growth) this will add to the toxicity of the solution.

What recipe and protocol did you follow when you transferred your collection to Kaiserling III?

The recipe for Kaiserling III that I use is as follows:

- 20 percent by volume pure glycerol
- 10 percent by weight anhydrous sodium acetate (or 16.6 percent by weight sodium acetate trihydrate)
- (optional) 0.5 percent by volume 37% formalin (to prevent mould growth on top of the fluid; not strictly necessary when fluid container is airtight)
- De-mineralized water

In the past, the pathology department used 60 percent by volume glycerol with no additions as an alternative for Kaiserling III. I personally prefer this alternative for Kaiserling III due to the fact that it does not contain formaldehyde, there are no salts and therefore less chance of precipitation and crystallization, and the blood color is more intense in pathological specimens. However, this is more expensive and clearing of tissues is more pronounced which may be an issue for natural history specimens.

Transferring formalin preserved specimens to Kaiserling III:

- Rinse specimens for 1 hour to one day (depending on size and density of tissue) in running tap water
- Transfer to equal parts Kaiserling III and water (1:1). Wait until specimen sinks.
- Transfer to pure Kaiserling III and again, wait until specimen sinks
- Transfer to fresh Kaiserling III for storage (transfer baths may be used several times, when DNA cross-contamination is not an important issue)

Will Kaiserling’s work as a short-term shipping fluid for specimens that were initially fixed in formalin but have been stored in ethanol for many years?

I would not recommend this because, in general, transferring specimens from one fluid to another will always disrupt the equilibrium between fluid inside and outside of tissue due to differences in osmotic pressures, mixing effects, penetration effects, solubility effects and precipitation of salts. Transferring to other fluids should only be done (by staging through increasing concentrations) when there is no other alternative or it is clear that the specimen will suffer long-term damage in the existing fluid as opposed to the alternative.

Will Kaiserling’s work as a short-term shipping fluid for specimens that were initially fixed in ethanol and are currently stored in ethanol (many of our specimens have never been in formalin or any other traditional fixative)?

See answer above. However, if formaldehyde is added to the recipe, then using this as a shipping fluid is strictly prohibited.

Has Kaiserling's been used as a storage solution for whole specimens with intact exoskeletons and/or body walls?

In our museum it is used for intact fetuses and neonates. Full exchange of fluid takes a long time. By the way, glycerol has the strange ability to inflate collapsed membrane structures (e.g., embryos) to their original shape. However, refer to the above answer with regard to transferring of specimens from one preservative to another.

Will Kaiserling's work as a long-term storage solution for specimens that were initially fixed in formalin but have been stored in ethanol for many years?

In the case of transferring specimens to Kaiserling III (taking into account the caveats mentioned above), I would suggest the following method (to lower the risk of osmotic pressure shocks to the tissue):

- First transfer specimen to Kaiserling III without the sodium acetate, wait until specimen sinks
- Transfer to Kaiserling III, wait until specimen sinks
- Finally, store in new Kaiserling III (transfer baths may be used several times, when DNA cross-contamination is not an important issue)

Where can I find more information about the Kaiserling method?

Good information about the original Kaiserling method and its modifications can be found in the following text:

Edwards, J.J. and M.J. (1959) *Medical Museum Technology*. Oxford University Press, London, 172 pp.

Andries J. van Dam
Conservator, Coordinator ICOM-CC Working Group Natural History Collections, Museum of Anatomy, Leiden University Medical Centre, P.O.Box 9600, 2300 RC Leiden, The Netherlands; Tel: +31715276677; E-mail: A.J.van_Dam@lumc.nl

The Working Group Natural History Collections at the ICOM-CC triennial meeting in The Hague

In September 2005, the 14th triennial meeting of the International Council of Museums - Committee for Conservation (ICOM-CC) took place in The Hague. More than a thousand ICOM members originating from more than 100 countries were present to exchange knowledge and discuss the developments in the professional field of conservation. The main theme of the conference "Our cultural past – Your future!" reflected the growing understanding that to effectively conserve our cultural

heritage, it is essential to involve the public. To stimulate this, several events were held before and during the Congress at which the public could interact with conservation professionals.

The Working Group Natural History Collections (WGNHC) was one of more than 20 working groups who organized a specialist meeting. At this event, Julia Day of the Milwaukee Public Museum presented her research on the practical use of low oxygen environments. Babke Aarts working for the Academic Heritage Foundation in the Netherlands presented the practical implementations of a national de-accessioning project. Frank Bergevoet (Netherlands Institute for Cultural Heritage, ICN) gave a discussion stimulating talk about what he called "heritage bulimia" which generated a lively debate about de-accessioning until the close of the working group session. With respect to this discussion, I wish to thank Ann Pinzl, former newsletter editor of our group, for her perfect chairing.

The WGNHC also joined an interdisciplinary meeting on metal composites, together with several other specialist working groups, which will hopefully lead to more studies focusing on the problems related to interaction of organic and inorganic materials (e.g., efflorescence on wax models containing metals or metal based pigments, herbaria treated with mercury salts, and degradation of fats and fatty acids catalyzed by metal ions in fluid preserved specimens).

No doubt, there are lots of challenges for the next triennium. I hope the SPNHC membership will keep on supporting the working group's activities. Looking forward to meeting you again at the upcoming SPHNC events. Finally, don't forget to put the next triennial meeting of ICOM-CC on your agenda: 22 - 26 September 2008 in Delhi (India).

Dries van Dam, Coordinator ICOM-CC-WGNHC

The Society of Herbarium Curators

The Society of Herbarium Curators (SHC), **open to everyone**, is a forum for discussion, action and support, especially of threatened herbaria. Born in the Southeastern United States, SHC has gone on to form an umbrella organization, which aims to unite herbaria across the nation and around the world.

Mission: The purpose of the society shall be to promote and expand the role of herbaria in botanical research, teaching, and service to the community at large, to provide a forum for discussion and action on all issues confronting herbaria, and to extend its efforts and interject its influence toward the protection and preservation of endangered herbaria.

In particular, regional networks will be used to reach out to groups that have been historically underrepresented in the

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Joint Annual Meeting of SPNHC and NSCA

23-27 May, 2006

Albuquerque, New Mexico



“The Road to Productive Partnerships”



Please join us in scenic Albuquerque, New Mexico in May for the second joint annual meeting of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections and the Natural Science Collections Alliance. The meeting site is at the Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town, located in the heart of Albuquerque’s historical district.

Pre-conference field trips include your choice of one full-day excursion to either Santa Fe, the Valles Caldera National Preserve, or the Sandia Mountains, or one half-day trip to nearby Petroglyph National Monument. Museum tours of the University of New Mexico Museum of Southwestern Biology, Geology and Meteoritic Collections, and Maxwell Museum of Anthropology will be available. The Ice Breaker reception will be held at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science and we hope you join us for a casual evening of dining and dancing (with live entertainment) at the Banquet.

Our plenary speakers include two distinguished scientists, Dr. Peter Raven, Director of the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis, Missouri, and Dr. Jorge Soberón, Researcher at the Natural History Museum and Biodiversity Research Center, University of Kansas. The two-day conference will include oral and poster presentations, as well as several themed sessions on border and permit issues, data sharing and bioinformatics, issues involving Federally-associated collections, and training the next generation of collections care personnel.

We are offering a selection of half-day workshops and one full-day workshop that will highlight recent advances in biodiversity informatics. Three half-day workshops will cover the topics of improving data quality and data cleaning; the ins and outs of imaging for museum collections; and an overview of Arctos, an evolving web-based data model for museum partners. The Global Biodiversity Information Facility will host a whole day workshop on how to become a GBIF data provider. Workshops will highlight developing features and provide instructional presentations. Check the meeting website for additional information.

Questions? Contact Cindy Ramotnik at ramotnik@unm.edu or (505) 277-5369.

Dates to remember: Deadline for submission of abstracts: March 15, 2006

Deadline for early Registration: March 24, 2006

Conference rate cut-off date for Hotel Albuquerque: April 23, 2006



<http://www.msb.unm.edu/meetings/SPNHC-NSCA2006/>

SPNHC 2006, Albuquerque, New Mexico Workshop details

Four workshops are scheduled for Saturday, May 27th at the CERIA building (www.msb.unm.edu/info.html#directions) on the UNM campus. Workshops 1 & 2 are half-day morning workshops which may be repeated in the afternoon if there is sufficient interest. Meeting participants may choose to attend either or both of these sessions. Workshop 3 will be offered only in the morning and workshop 4 will take up a full day. For more information on any of these workshops please contact: Chris Frazier (cfrazier@unm.edu).

WORKSHOP 1 – Data quality and data cleaning (Half-day): Organizer/Presenter: Arthur Chapman

The rapid increase in the exchange and availability of taxonomic and primary species data has made the consideration of the quality of these data an important agenda item as users of these data begin to require more detail on the quality of the information. No matter how efficient the process of data entry, errors will still occur. Thus, museums must apply to their data principles of error detection, validation and cleaning.

This workshop will examine the principles of data quality that should become core to the business of museums and herbaria around the world as they release their data to the broader community. We will also examine methods for preventing, detecting, and cleaning errors in primary specimen databases, in general, and with respect to nomenclatural and spatial information.

WORKSHOP 2 - The in's and out's of imaging for museum collections (Half-day): Organizer/Presenter: Reed Beaman

This workshop will cover the basic concepts and methodology involved with imaging museum specimens. The workshop will include discussion of methodology and best practices and discussion of the in's and out's of providing images on-line.

WORKSHOP 3 - Arctos: A biodiversity informatics tool (Morning only): Organizer: Gordon Jarrell

Arctos is a partnership among a few museums to build a full-featured suite of Web applications over the evolving data model descended from the "Berkeley," or "MVZ Model." The University of Alaska Museum of the North and the Museum of Southwestern Biology are now the first museums to post their working collection data in a single system on the Internet. The University of California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology is extending its system to include its 91,000 pages of historic field notes cross-referenced to collection data. The session will have presentations describing the system and its several developing features.

WORKSHOP 4 - Becoming a GBIF provider (Full day): Organizer: Larry Speers; Presenter: Hannu Saarenmaa

The Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) (www.gbif.org) serves primary data on species occurrences derived from museum specimens and observational records. Implementation of the GBIF network requires knowing how to use the various software tools. The most basic requirement is to set up your collection as a GBIF node and operate a data provider application on a server computer. One of GBIF's standards for data provision is the DiGIR protocol (<http://digir.sourceforge.net/>). This is a technical course covering installation of the DiGIR provider on both Windows and Linux platforms.

The DiGIR network is designed to serve primary data on species occurrences derived from museum specimens and observational records. This training is designed to facilitate the development of a network of DiGIR providers serving primary data. In most instances these servers will be hosted by the Natural History Collections or other institutions that hold this type of data. *It would be expected that trainees already have access to these types of data sets or are preparing to train others that are willing to serve this type of information.*

Target Audience: The course is designed for:

- Managers and system administrators of GBIF nodes. Individuals from participant nodes and data nodes are strongly encouraged to take this class.
- Database custodians and scientists who want to understand how GBIF data is provided.

Prerequisites: The trainees should have technical competence, as described below:

- Server operating systems covered (Linux/Unix and/or Windows 2000/XP): Basic to intermediate level of knowledge.
- Relational databases: Basic knowledge of the concepts.
- Internet: Basic knowledge of web servers such as Apache and IIS.
- XML: Basics knowledge.

Endangered Species in glass: The Blaschka models

An essential part of any 19th Century natural history collection, the scientific models made by Leopold and Rudolf Blaschka froze the delicate features of organisms in time, to represent specimens that were difficult to preserve for display. These sculptures famously include anatomically detailed, scientifically correct models of hundreds of species of marine invertebrates and greatly magnified microscopic organisms. However, with the rise of underwater photography and less expensive modelling techniques, these models fell out of fashion and have in most cases been relegated to distant storage. Only recently have the models been recalled from obscurity and recognised as fascinating treasures in collections.

Leopold completed his first glass replica commission, 100 glass orchids for a local aristocrat in 1857—the same year his son Rudolf was born. Over their lifetimes the Blaschkas supplied museums, universities and institutes across Europe and North America with precise glass models of invertebrates from their catalogue of over 700 (predominantly Atlantic and European) species. Every model was hand made and painted to order. As scientific models grew to dominate a trade founded on laboratory glass and taxidermy eyes, the team sought out better “sitters” for their art, and installed large aquaria to keep live molluscs and anemones in their inland studio. In the last phase of their collective career they signed an exclusive which resulted in more than 4,000 models still held by the Botanical Museum in Harvard University. Rudolf completed the Harvard commission three years before his death in 1939, leaving no heir to the family trade.

Modern glass artists have been unable to recreate these stunning, intricate sculptures, and the father and son team never recorded their techniques. (But the American Museum of Natural History, New York, hired their own German glass artist to independently make very similar models of protozoa.) The Blaschka workshop where all the models were created in Dresden, Germany, was destroyed during bombing in World War II, as was a major collection of models held in the local natural history museum. Although some of their archives are preserved in the Corning Institute of Glass (Ithaca, New York, USA), there is very little information about how they worked their glass magic. Although a charming mystery, this has led to growing concern among glass conservators, who are struggling to preserve and repair neglected models. Even the simplest forms of cleaning, to remove more than 100 years' worth of dust, is a complicated job on these delicate works of art.

Over their long career, the Blaschkas clearly employed techniques that often involved using whatever was near at hand. Experimental work by some glass conservators quickly revealed that models of different ages and different species use completely different kinds of pigments, and different chemical compositions of glass (inconvenient for choosing a standardised

cleaning technique!). Some models use pigmented glass, and others are surface painted, and others (such as naturally transparent jellyfish) use powdering techniques that look deceptively like glass decay.

September 2006 will see the first-ever international meeting focused on the work of glass artists Leopold and Rudolf Blaschka. These 19th Century artists produced a fusion of science and art which has never been equalled. Art and science museums worldwide hold Blaschka sculptures, which are increasingly recognised for their historical, technical, and artistic importance. Bridging the gap between science and art puts the Blaschka's work in a unique position, which is long overdue for serious study.

The Dublin Blaschka Congress will be hosted in Ireland by the partnership linking University College Dublin and the National Museum of Ireland (Natural History), in collaboration with the Natural History Museum (London, UK). Conference proceedings will include major contributions from some of the world's leading glass scholars: David Whitehouse (Corning Institute of Glass, New York, USA), Susan Rossi-Wilcox (Harvard University, USA), renowned Blaschka scholar Henri Reiling, and Chris Meecham (National Museum and Galleries of Wales).

‘There is growing interest in Blaschka works, because these are the earliest modern objects that directly connect science and art. Scientists call them “models”, artists call them “sculptures”, but they clearly have a huge value to both,’ says Nigel Monaghan, Keeper of Natural History in Dublin. ‘This congress is very timely for our collection, and for many scholars.’ In their own era, Leopold and Rudolf Blaschka described themselves as ‘natural history artisans.’ Their work has since been described as ‘an artistic marvel in the field of science and a scientific marvel in the field of art.’

Like an endangered species, it is not clear how many Blaschka specimens exist in total, or where they are all held. Particularly among conservators and collections managers, where science and aesthetics often conflict over issues of storage, study, and display, these models have an interesting role. These scientifically accurate models, looking ready to crawl away, are beautiful. The 21st Century tradition of exhibition can perhaps take a lesson from this 19th Century innovation.

The Dublin Blaschka Congress will take place 28 - 30 September. The main aim of the congress is to network the growing number of people with interest in the Blaschka glass models, their history, and their conservation. The congress will include keynote addresses as well as submitted papers from areas as diverse as scientific illustration, conservation, exhibition, invertebrate anatomy and lampworking. A public exhibition of Blaschka models never before seen on display will be held in the National Museum of Ireland (Natural History), Dublin from September through December 2006. For further details including congress registration, see www.ucd.ie/blaschka or contact Catherine McGuinness at blaschka2006@ucd.ie or telephone +353 (0)1 6486396.

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..... Society of Herbarium Curators

botanical and conservation communities, to land managers and state and federal agencies, and to the K-12 students and teachers. SHC will work to support herbaria of all types in these regions, to help develop community standards of curation, and to make certain that herbaria are fully utilized and not orphaned by their institutions.

History: For the past decade, the Southeastern Herbarium Curator's Committee, a group of curators in southeastern United States have been informally meeting with the Association of Southeastern Biologists (ASB). The group organized a symposium entitled "The Future of Plant Collections in the Southeast" in 2001 and the concept for the expansion of this organization was developed in the ensuing workshop. Through efforts spearheaded by John Herr at the University of South Carolina, Michael Woods at Troy University and Dan Evans at Marshall University, the group developed a constitution and formally organized as SHC on July 4, 2004. SHC has been recognized as an affiliate society by ASB and the Southern Appalachian Botanical Society (SABS).

For more information about The Society of Herbarium Curators visit our website at <http://www.newberry.net/sabs/SHC/>. Please contact any officer listed on the web site for additional information. Also, please print a copy of the membership application provided on the website and consider becoming a member of this exciting new organization.

16th International Meeting of the Society for the History of Natural History

Natural Science in the New World: The Descriptive Enterprise

September 21 - 24, 2006

The history of natural history in Canada is not as well known as it should be, but it is rich. One of the first descriptions of the New World was Jacques Cartier's account of "diamonds" at the mouth of Rivière du Cap-Rouge in 1541. This episode gave Quebec's Cap Diamant its name and the saying "faux comme des diamants du Canada". French, English, Italian, and other European explorers described the flora, fauna, and natural resources of the land and helped generate the explosion of natural history knowledge that constituted the scientific revolution and enlightenment. Explorers and settlers like Thetvet, Champlain, Denys, Sarrasin and Louis Nicolas wrote accounts and collected specimens. Surveyors and explorers mapped the country's landscape and included Thomas Davies, the factors of the Hudson Bay and NorthWest Companies, and Franklin and Frobisher in the Arctic. In the 19th century Montreal served as a base for the study and documentation of

natural 'philosophy' by important figures such as John William Dawson and William Logan, and, later, the botanist Frère Marie-Victorin. The knowledge of the Native peoples informed the understanding of the early explorers, and continues to shape contemporary conceptions of the natural history of this country. Meetings exploring these topics will be held at the Redpath Museum and the Jardin Botanique de Montréal, with special visits to the Biodôme de Montréal, the Insectarium, the Blacker-Wood Rare Books Collection and the Osler Medical Library at McGill, and the McCord Museum.

Abstracts are required for oral presentations. Oral presentations will be 15 minutes, which includes time for questions and discussion. Submit your Abstract to Ingrid.Birker@mcgill.ca. **The deadline for receipt of Abstracts is April 14, 2006.**

Field trips include Mont Ste. Hilaire Unesco Biosphere Reserve, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue (Includes Lyman Entomological Museum, Herbarium and Ecomuseum), Biodôme— *Behind the scene/ L'envers du décor*, Mount Royal Cemetery— *The natural history of the mountain* and Early Birds on Westmount summit.

Social events and activities include an Ice Breaker at the Redpath Museum, Jardin Botanique *Cocktail and Magic Lantern tour*, Banquet at the McCord Museum, Blacker Wood Rare Books, Osler Library of Medical History and a Walking tour: *What Building Stones Tell*.

Registration fee

CAN \$175: Early registration received by: April 14, 2006
CAN \$195: Registration if received by: June 30, 2006

The registration fee includes the conference materials, the Icebreaker Reception, and all break refreshments.

Please note that the Redpath Museum is not wheelchair accessible.

Hosted by:

Redpath Museum (www.mcgill.ca/redpath)
McCord Museum (<http://www.mccord-museum.qc.ca/en/>)
Jardin Botanique (<http://www2.ville.montreal.qc.ca/jardin/en> and www.ville.montreal.qc.ca/insectarium).

For more information contact:

Ingrid Birker, Paleontology Curator, Redpath Museum (ingrid.birker@mcgill.ca)
Victoria Dickenson, Director, McCord Museum (victoria.dickenson@mccord.mcgill.ca)
Johanne Landry, Directrice, Insectarium de Montréal (johanne_landry@ville.montreal.qc.ca).

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) 20th Annual Preservation Conference

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) will hold its 20th Annual Preservation Conference on Thursday, March 16, 2006 at its Washington, DC building on Constitution Avenue between 7th and 9th Streets NW. The conference itself begins at 9:00am and concludes at 5:00pm.

The conference is entitled, "Beyond the Numbers: Specifying and Achieving an Efficient Preservation Environment", and will explore how institutions are approaching environmental control and building design issues given escalating construction costs, shrinking budgets and the ever-increasing price of energy.

Presentations will include:

- Understanding Mechanical Systems that Support Preservation Environments: Ernest Conrad, Principal; Landmark Facilities Group, Inc.
- Making Sense of the Environmental Data: Jim Reilly, Director; Image Permanence Institute.
- Preserving Cultural Property Housed in Historic Properties: Richard Kerschner, Conservator; Shelburne Museum.
- Delivering Preservation Targets and Energy Savings through System Review: Peter Herzog; Herzog-Wheeler & Associates.
- Separating Functions: Preservation and Building Design for the National Museum of American Indian: Gail Joyce, Collections Manager; NMAI.
- Determining and Communicating Preservation Requirements: Doris Hamburg, Director; Preservation Programs, NARA.
- Tracing the Evolution of Preservation Environments in Archives, Museums, and Libraries: Nancy Davis, National Preservation Program Officer; NARA.
- Weighing Alternative Solutions: Linda Blaser, National Preservation Program Officer for Regional Facilities and Bryan K. McGraw, Assistant Director for Archival Programs at National Personnel Records Center; NARA.
- Additional Considerations: Underground, High-Bay, and Remote Storage Facilities: Ann Seibert Preservation Projects Officer; NARA.

Seating is limited, therefore it is recommended that attendees register before March 1, 2006. The registration fee is \$85. The registration fee for full time students is \$40.00. You are on your own for lunch, please choose from a variety of nearby cafe's and restaurants.

Registration Forms are available at <http://www.archives.gov/preservation/conferences/2006/>. Please visit this website often as new information about the conference will be posted here as it becomes available.

Please send completed form with payment to: Richard Schneider - Conference Coordinator National Archives, NWT, Room B-815 College Park, MD 20740.

For your convenience, the coordinator will accept registration and credit card payments over the phone. Please call Richard at (301) 837-3617 if this is preferable for you. For general information, please call Richard at (301) 837-3617 or e-mail him at richard.schneider@nara.gov.

Position Announcements

If you would like to submit job descriptions, please send postings to the Newsletter Editor. See the SPNHC web site, www.spnhc.org, for current postings

Collections Assistant in Entomology/Parasitology: The Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago, IL seeks applicants for a three-year Collections Assistant (CA) position in the Department of Zoology, Division of Insects. The position will begin 1 June 2006 and end 31 May 2009. The primary responsibilities of the individual will be to assist in all aspects of processing, identifying, curating, and databasing samples of mammal ectoparasites, with an emphasis on bat flies. The individual will be expected to gain a basic knowledge of the taxonomy of bat flies (ca. 500 species in 45 genera), to take digital images of type specimens, to work with data files in the context of a collections database program, and to create and update web pages. Following initial training, the CA must be able to work with minimal to moderate supervision. The CA will report directly to Dr. Carl W. Dick, Postdoctoral Research Scientist. The position is full-time and benefited, with a starting base salary of \$25,000-\$28,000 depending on skills and experience. Graduation from high school is required; preference will be given to persons with degrees in biology, entomology, or related field, and those that possess skills with web-page software, Excel, Access, and similar applications. Interested persons should write directly for an application form and instructions, or for additional information. Contact: Carl W. Dick, Department of Zoology, Field Museum of Natural History, 1400 S. Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60605. Email: cdick@fieldmuseum.org. Applications must be received no later than 15 April 2006. The Field Museum of Natural History is an equal opportunity employer.

Publications of Interest

This section is from the Citations Sub-Committee of the Conservation Committee and is chaired by Marcia A. Revelez. Citations were submitted by Victoria Book (VB), Diana Dicus (DD), Jennifer Holt (JH), Barbara Moore (BM), Joanna Morton (JM), Ann Pinzl (AP), Marcia Revelez (MR), John Simmons (JS), Steve Williams (SW), and Christina Wolfe (CW). Contributions, suggestions, and comments may be submitted to Marcia A. Revelez, Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, 2401 Chautauqua, Norman, OK 73072; (405) 325-7988 (voice); (405) 325-7699 (fax); mrevelez@ou.edu.

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Calendar of Events

The Calendar of Events is maintained by Christine Chandler of the Documentation Committee. Application deadlines, conferences and symposia relevant to collection management, computerization and conservation of natural history collections are listed. Notices may be submitted to Christine at Putnam Museum of History and Natural Science, 1717 West 12th Street, Davenport, IA 52804; (563) 324-1054 ext. 226; email: chandler@putnam.org or dinoceras@juno.com.

2006

February 2006

- February 6, 2006. **NEH, Implementation Grants for Museums and Historical Organizations** deadline. Visit <http://www.neh.gov> for more information.
- February 6, 2006. **NEH, Implementation Grants for Special Projects** deadline. Visit <http://www.neh.gov> for more information.
- February 6 - March 3, 2006. **Fundraising for Collection Care**, an online course offered by the Northern States Conservation Center. For information on this and other courses, visit <http://www.collectioncare.org/training/training.html>.
- February 6 - March 17, 2006. **Disaster Planning II: Writing a Disaster Preparedness Plan**, an online course offered by the Northern States Conservation Center. For information on this and other courses, visit <http://www.collectioncare.org/training/training.html>.
- February 15, 2006. **AAM/IMLS Museum Assessment Program (MAP)** deadline. Visit <http://www.ims.gov> for more information.
- February 15 - 17, 2006. **Inspiring Discovery—Unlocking Collections, WebWise Conference on Libraries & Museums in the Digital World**, Los Angeles, California, USA. For further information, check out <http://www.getty.edu/webwise2006/conference> or contact Matt Burdetsky, Capital Meeting Planning, Inc. at (703) 536-4993 (phone) or matt@cmpinc.net.
- February 21 - 24, 2006. **California Association of Museums Conference, Eyes on the Horizon: Envisioning and Realizing the Future**, Monterey, California, USA. Check out <http://www.calmuseums.org/cam2006> for more information.
- February 24 - 26, 2006. **Museums in Their Place: roles, Regeneration and Community, Irish Museums Association Conference**, Belfast. For more information, contact Robert Heslip at robert.heslip@magni.org.uk.
- February 26 - 28, 2006. **2006 Small Museum Association Annual Conference, Learning Large in the Small Museum**, Ocean City, Maryland, USA. Go to <http://www.smallmuseum.org/education/htm> for more information.
- February 27 - March 17, 2006. **Online Course on Digitization** offered by the Illinois Digitization Institute. Registration fee is US\$ 300 per person. For more information, contact Amy Maroso at maroso@uiuc.edu, (217) 244-4946 (phone), or visit <http://images.library.uiuc.edu/projects/IDI/Track2schedule.htm>.

March 2006

- March 2, 2006. **Conservation: Do It Yourself vs. the Pros**, presented by the Federation of Mississippi Historical Societies in cooperation with the Historic Natchez Foundation, Natchez, Mississippi, USA. For more information, contact Cindy Gardner, Old Capitol Museum of Mississippi History, PO Box 571, Jackson, MS 39205-0571; (601) 576-6901 (phone); (601) 576-6981 (fax); cgardner@mdah.state.ms.us.
- March 6 - April 14, 2006. **Storage for Infinity: An Overview of Museum Storage Principles**, an online course offered by the Northern States Conservation Center. For information on this and other courses, visit <http://www.collectioncare.org/training/training.html>.
- March 6 - April 14, 2006. **Integrated Pest Management**, an online course offered by the Northern States Conservation Center. For information on this and other courses, visit <http://www.collectioncare.org/training/training.html>.

March 26 - 27, 2006. **Ohio Museums Association Annual Meeting, Creating Connections: Museums and Communities**, Canton/Massillon, Ohio, USA. For more information, check out <http://www.ohiomuseums.org>.

March 29 - 31, 2006. **Legal Issues in Museum Administration**, Chicago, Illinois, USA, sponsored by the American Law Institute-American Bar Association (ALI-ABA) & the Smithsonian Institution with cooperation of the American Association of Museums. For more information, visit <http://www.aam-us.org> or contact seminars@aam-us.org.

April 2006

April 17 - May 19, 2006. **Museum Artifacts: How they are made and how the deteriorate**, an online course offered by the Northern States Conservation Center. For information on this and other courses, visit <http://www.collectioncare.org/training/training.html>.

April 27 - May 1, 2006. **AAM Annual Meeting & MuseumExpo™ (AAM Centennial), A Centennial of Ideas—Exploring Tomorrow's Museums**, Boston, Massachusetts, USA. For more information, visit <http://www.aam-us.org>.

May 2006

May 1 - July 30, 2006. **Caring for Collections**, a distance course from the Cultural Resource Management Program, University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. For more information about this and other courses offered by CRMP visit <http://www.uvcs.uvic.ca/crmp/contact.aspx>; (250) 721-8462 (phone); (250) 721-8774 (fax); crmp@uvcs.uvic.ca.

May 2 - 6, 2006. **Canadian Museums Association Annual Conference, To Be or Not To Be**, Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada. More information can be found at <http://www.museums.ca/Cma1/WhatsNew/conferences/cmaconf.htm>.

May 6 - 31, 2006. CollAsia course **Conservation of Southeast Asian Collections in Storage**, Manila, Philippines. Check out <http://www.iccrom.org/eng/training/events/2006-2007/200605collasia.htm>.

May 14 - 17, 2006. **Museums Australia Annual Conference, Exploring Dynamics: Cities, Cultural Spaces, Communities**, Brisbane, Australia. Check out <http://www.museumsaustralia.org.au>.

May 23 - 27, 2006. **SPNHC – NSCA Joint Meeting**, Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA, co-hosted by the University of New Mexico Museum of Southwestern Biology and the Geological Survey Arid Lands Field Station. Visit the meeting site at <http://www.msb.unm.edu/meetings/SPNHC-NCSA2006/> for details.

June 2006

June 7 - 10, 2006. **Design & Construction of Mounts for Exhibits**, Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies, Mount Carroll, Illinois, USA. For information about this and other Campbell Center courses & workshops visit <http://www.campbellcenter.org>; (815) 244-1173 (phone); (815) 244-1619 (fax).

June 12 - 15, 2006. **Exhibit Design for the Small Museum**, Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies, Mount Carroll, Illinois, USA. For information about this and other Campbell Center courses & workshops visit <http://www.campbellcenter.org>; (815) 244-1173 (phone); (815) 244-1619 (fax).

July 14 - 17, 2006. **Packing & Shipping Workshop**, Campbell Center

for Historic Preservation Studies, Mount Carroll, Illinois, USA. For information about this and other Campbell Center courses & workshops visit <http://www.campbellcenter.org>; (815) 244-1173 (phone); (815) 244-1619 (fax).

June 16 - 17, 2006. **Learning in Museums—Interpretive Teams: Planning to Evaluation**, St. Louis, Missouri, USA, hosted by the Saint Louis Art Museum & the Saint Louis Science Center. For more information, visit <http://www.aam-us.org> or contact seminars@aam-us.org.

June 19 - July 14, 2006. **Preservation**, an online course offered by the Northern States Conservation Center. For information on this and other courses, visit <http://www.collectioncare.org/training/training.html>.

June 21 - 24, 2006. **Environmental Monitoring & Control**, Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies, Mount Carroll, Illinois, USA. For information about this and other Campbell Center courses & workshops visit <http://www.campbellcenter.org>; (815) 244-1173 (phone); (815) 244-1619 (fax).

June 26, 2006. **Environmental Monitoring & Control—1 Day Workshop**, Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies, Mount Carroll, Illinois, USA. For information about this and other Campbell Center courses & workshops visit <http://www.campbellcenter.org>; (815) 244-1173 (phone); (815) 244-1619 (fax).

June 26 - July 21, 2006. **Exhibit Fundamentals: Ideas to Installation**, an online course offered by the Northern States Conservation Center. For information on this and other courses, visit <http://www.collectioncare.org/training/training.html>.

July 2006

July 5 - 31, 2006. **Applying Numbers to Collection Objects: Materials & Methods of Object Numbering**, an online course offered by the Northern States Conservation Center. For information on this and other courses, visit <http://www.collectioncare.org/training/training.html>.

July 5 - 31, 2006. **Collections Management: Cataloging Your Collections**, an online course offered by the Northern States Conservation Center. For information on this and other courses, visit <http://www.collectioncare.org/training/training.html>.

July 10 - 12, 2006. **Connections, Communities and Collections, ICOM-International Committee for Museums of Ethnology (ICME)**, Miami Beach, Florida, USA. For more information, check out <http://icme.icom.museum>.

July 10 - 13, 2006. **Emergency Preparedness, Response, & Recovery**, Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies, Mount Carroll, Illinois, USA. For information about this and other Campbell Center courses & workshops visit <http://www.campbellcenter.org>; (815) 244-1173 (phone); (815) 244-1619 (fax).

July 10 - 13, 2006. **Photographic Documentation & Digital Imaging of Museum Collections**, Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies, Mount Carroll, Illinois, USA. For information about this and other Campbell Center courses & workshops visit <http://www.campbellcenter.org>; (815) 244-1173 (phone); (815) 244-1619 (fax).

July 25 - 27, 2006. **Funding Collection Care: A Grant Writing Workshop**, Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies, Mount Carroll, Illinois, USA. For information about this and other Campbell Center courses & workshops visit <http://www.campbellcenter.org>; (815) 244-1173 (phone); (815) 244-1619 (fax).

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August 2006

August 7 - September 1, 2006. **Materials for Storage & Display**, an online course offered by the Northern States Conservation Center. For information on this and other courses, visit <http://www.collectioncare.org/training/training.html>.

August 7 - September 1, 2006. **Disaster Planning I: Introduction to Disaster Preparedness Planning**, an online course offered by the Northern States Conservation Center. For information on this and other courses, visit <http://www.collectioncare.org/training/training.html>.

August 10 - 12, 2006. **Computer Software for Collections Management**, Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies, Mount Carroll, Illinois, USA. For information about this and other Campbell Center courses & workshops visit <http://www.campbellcenter.org>; (815) 244-1173 (phone); (815) 244-1619 (fax).

August 13 - 19, 2006. **24th International Ornithological Congress**, Hamburg, Federal Republic of Germany. See the web site at <http://www.i-o-c.org> for more information.

August 14 - 17, 2006. **Care of Basketry**, Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies, Mount Carroll, Illinois, USA. For information about this and other Campbell Center courses & workshops visit <http://www.campbellcenter.org>; (815) 244-1173 (phone); (815) 244-1619 (fax).

August 14 - 18, 2006. **Collections Management in Storage**, Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies, Mount Carroll, Illinois, USA. For information about this and other Campbell Center courses & workshops visit <http://www.campbellcenter.org>; (815) 244-1173 (phone); (815) 244-1619 (fax).

August 28 - September 22, 2006. **Fundraising for Collections Care**, an online course offered by the Northern States Conservation Center. For information on this and other courses, visit <http://www.collectioncare.org/training/training.html>.

September 2006

September 10 - 14, 2006. **2006 Annual Meeting and Conference of the International Committee for Documentation (CIDOC), Wider Perspective—Broader Base**, Gothenburg, Sweden, examining the current state of knowledge and research on ideas and tools for museum documentation. For additional information, visit <http://cidoc06.se>.

September 11 - October 6, 2006. **Museum Environmental Control Systems**, an online course offered by the Northern States Conservation Center. For information on this and other courses, visit <http://www.collectioncare.org/training/training.html>.

September 11 - December 10, 2006. **Collections Management**, a distance course from the Cultural Resource Management Program, University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. For more information about this and other courses offered by CRMP visit <http://www.uvcs.uvic.ca/crmp/contact.aspx>; (250) 721-8462 (phone); (250) 721-8774 (fax); crmp@uvcs.uvic.ca.

September 11 - December 17, 2006. **Museum Principles and Practices: Creating and Preserving Knowledge**, a distance course from the Cultural Resource Management Program, University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. For more information about this and other courses offered by CRMP visit <http://www.uvcs.uvic.ca/crmp/contact.aspx>; (250) 721-8462 (phone); (250) 721-8774 (fax); crmp@uvcs.uvic.ca.

September 18 - December 17, 2006. **Building Community Relationships**, a distance course from the Cultural Resource Management Program, University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. For more

information about this and other courses offered by CRMP visit <http://www.uvcs.uvic.ca/crmp/contact.aspx>; (250) 721-8462 (phone); (250) 721-8774 (fax); crmp@uvcs.uvic.ca.

September 22 - 23, 2006. **Secrets of Accreditation**, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA. For more information, visit <http://www.aam-us.org> or contact seminars@aam-us.org.

September 26 - 29, 2006. **Joint Conference of the Association of Midwest Museums (AMM), the Illinois Association of Museums (IAM) & the Iowa Museum Association (IMA)**, Quad Cities, Illinois & Iowa, USA.

October 2006

October 2006. **2006 Meeting of the International Committee for Museums and Collections of Natural History (NatHist)**, Mysore, India.

October 4 - 6, 2006. **AFRICOM 2nd General Assembly & International Conference, Museums and Intangible Heritage**, Cape Town, South Africa. Go to <http://www.samaweb.org.za/conf.htm>.

October 11 - 15, 2006. **Western Museums Association 2006 Annual Meeting, Frontier Without Limits: High Desert Rendezvous**, Boise, Idaho, USA. For more information, visit http://www.westmuse.org/boise_theme.html.

October 16 - 27, 2006. **Reducing Risks to Collections**, a course sponsored by ICCROM & the Canadian Conservation Institute, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. For more information, visit <http://www.iccrom.org/fran/FormationConf/Evenements/2006-2007/PCC.htm>.

October 16 - November 10, 2006. **Sharing Conservation Decisions 2006**, a course sponsored by ICCROM in collaboration with the Institut National du Patrimoine (France), the Istituto Centrale di Restauro & the Opificio dell pietre Dure (Italy), Rome Italy. Full information is available at <http://www.iccrom.org/eng/training/events/2006-2007/Sharing.htm>.

October 22 - 25, 2006. **Annual Meeting of the Geological Society of America**, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA. Visit <http://www.geosociety.org/meetings> for details.

October 28 - 31, 2006. **Appropriate Growth Sustaining Institutional Advancement, Association of Science-Technology Centers Annual Conference**, Louisville, Kentucky, USA. For more information, go to <http://www.astc.org/conference/future.htm>.

2007

January 2007

January 8 - April 22, 2007. **Curatorship: Contemporary Perspectives**, a distance course from the Cultural Resource Management Program, University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. For more information about this and other courses offered by CRMP visit <http://www.uvcs.uvic.ca/crmp/contact.aspx>; (250) 721-8462 (phone); (250) 721-8774 (fax); crmp@uvcs.uvic.ca.

January 15 - April 29, 2007. **Caring for Collections**, a distance course from the Cultural Resource Management Program, University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. For more information about this and other courses offered by CRMP visit <http://www.uvcs.uvic.ca/crmp/contact.aspx>; (250) 721-8462 (phone); (250) 721-8774 (fax); crmp@uvcs.uvic.ca.

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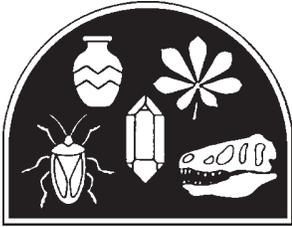
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SPNHC Newsletter

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LEFT COAST PRESS, INC. PUBLISHES TWO NEW MUSEUM JOURNALS

Walnut Creek, CA – Left Coast Press, Inc., a specialty publisher of professional materials for the museum community, announces the addition of two new journals.

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