

ICCM NEWSLETTER

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MR R J BICKERSTETH
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SCIENCE, P.O. BOX K346
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ICCM

NEWSLETTER

Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Material Inc.

No. 15 March 1985
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EDITORIAL**Will you attend the 1985 ICCM Conference in Perth, WA?**

The problem of geographical isolation has been discussed with reference to many things, but very rarely has it been discussed with reference to a conference.

For some time now the Western Australian Division have been preparing for the 1985 Conference. They have selected a topic they hope will have widespread application and interest for everyone. By selecting the topic 'TOWARDS 2000: CONSERVATION IN AN AUSTRALIAN CONTEXT' they are hoping that the barriers of geographical isolation will be broken down and that visitors from the eastern states, where the majority of our membership is located, will be encouraged to make the trek to Western Australia, to participate in the exchange of information and support this group who have always worked so hard towards the aims of the Institute, though in isolation from the rest of the conservation community. We urge you to make the effort to attend.

With the Australian Bicentennial rapidly approaching, conservation within the Australian context must be of major concern and a topic for serious discussion at such a gathering. It will provide an ideal opportunity to devise a national strategy in preparation for 1988. With this point of reference, the

conference will be considering the housing of collections from the present into the future, with emphasis on the problems of both recycled and new buildings in providing adequate and flexible facilities. It will also consider computerisation and preservation of the media of the future. Speakers will be invited from within Australia and overseas.

One day will be devoted to 3 sessions which will be run concurrently on specific areas of interest, supporting the main topic. These will deal with:

1. Conservation of objects with emphasis on Ethnographic Materials and Decorative Arts.
2. Conservation of Maritime Archaeological Material.
3. Conservation of Paintings, Paper and Photographic Material.

Prior to the Conference a workshop is to be held for Regional Conservators as there are now conservators working in this capacity in Western Australia, Victoria and New South Wales.

After the Conference, workshops are to be held on the topics: Maritime Archaeology, Paper, Textiles, Ethnographic Material and Photographic Material.

A detailed programme will be circulated when finalised. (See Conference Section for further details).

The Conference will be held from September 30 to October 4, 1985, so start to plan your trip to WA now.

NEWS FROM THE DIVISIONS

ACT

A workshop was held in November by Anthony Cains entitled 'Conservation Practice at Trinity College, Dublin'.

The end of year Gala event was a dinner party held at the end of November at the home of Lydia Preiss. This attracted approximately sixty people in formal attire with door prizes and cocktails adding to the success of the occasion.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Congratulations to David Button and Kaye Jenkinson on twins — Sophie Scarlet and Sam Jade.

VICTORIA

The following council was elected in September for 84/85.

President — Debbie Breen

Secretary — Kate Eccles-Smith

Treasurer — Lou Young

Committee — Barbara Reeve, Margaret Perkins, Maxwell Hall, Eric Rowlinson, Anne Cotter-Ross

Vic. Rep — Eric Archer.

The new council has been busy starting a local newsletter, a publication sub-committee and organizing meetings for 1985. They are holding bi-monthly meetings and plan the first meeting for 4th March. This is intended to be an informal supper at Como House, Toorak an Historical Homestead. A talk on the history of the house and its collection will be followed by a guided tour by the curator Sue Silberberg.

The new address of the Division is

P.O. Box 20465

Melbourne 3001

Australian Archives

The staff have completed work on 5 large Tourist Commission Posters which will be on display soon. Ongoing treatments include architectural plans and government files which have been requested by researchers under the Archives Act. Conservation staff Linda Waters and Carey Beams have been helped by Canberra Students Jenny Casey and Beata Tworek, and volunteer Alison Wain. Linda will be joining the Heidelberg project at the National Gallery of Victoria in March.

Museum of Victoria

Dr. Daniel Tworek and Margaret Perkins are continuing to examine options for upgrading laboratory space and facilities. Dr. Tworek recently visited major laboratories in Sydney and Canberra. Barbara Reeve, who has been working at the Museum on the Nordstrom models of Victorian Gold Fields, is presently in Syria on an archaeological dig.

Work is progressing for the 'Story of Victoria', the Museum's contribution to the 150th celebrations. This includes the conservation of Fawkner's printing press, a Cobb and Co. coach, and a wide range of objects from Bendigo Chinese Association.

The Museum is also looking for people to fill temporary conservation positions, any objects conservators out there? Please contact Dr. Tworek or Margaret Perkins 669 9888.

National Gallery of Victoria

Lou Young, Robyn Sleggett and David Stein have joined the Conservation Department. Robyn and David are working under the direction of John Payne in preparing paintings for the Heidelberg and Sesquicentennial Exhibitions. Lou is acting Paper Conservator until a replacement for Eric Archer is appointed. She is working on 2 large composite media objects.

Senior Conservator Tom Dixon is co-ordinating other staff in the preparation of works for an extensive loan and exhibition programme including David Davies, Honore Daumier, Bridget Riley.

Gerrais Latour a sculpture student from the Victorian College of the Arts is presently working on the collection of 19th century Bronze Sculpture.

State Library of Victoria

State Library of Victoria welcomes their new Senior Conservator Eric Archer (formerly of National Gallery of Victoria). Eric took up the appointment in January and is currently working on plans to develop conservation facilities at the library. Work on the 150th Exhibition 'Victorian Vision' is almost complete and Debbie Breen and Kate Eccles-Smith expect to spend the next month finishing the project. Liz Jones was actively involved with the 1934 exhibition currently on display at the library, and will also be working on the preparation of an exhibition about Italian Immigrants in Australia.

Regional Galleries Conservation Centre, Ballarat

Paper Conservator Ian Fulton has left Ballarat for Canberra where he plans to act as a consultant on lighting and environmental considerations in Museums. Aman Siddique has completed work on his new lining table which caters for all types of linings. He will demonstrate the table 'that does it all' at a workshop later in the year. He is currently working on a large painting from Melbourne's Exhibition Buildings. The Regional Galleries have recently enlarged their policy so that their services will now be available to Metropolitan Institutions.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The end of the year was celebrated with a B.B.Q. for members and families.

January Meeting

The Australian Society of Archivists, Perth Regional Branch, and ICCM joined together for a talk by Paul Wilson of State Archives of Queensland. Paul is a temporary consultant to the Australian Library and Information Council and is working with Institutions throughout Australia which have archival holdings to bring to the attention of government funding bodies the generally poor conditions of such collections. Funding may then be set aside for their future conservation and preservation.

February Meeting

Silvia Bass, Paper Conservator at the Art Gallery of Western Australia and David Butcher, Conservator at the Battye Library will conduct a workshop on Mounting and Framing and de-framing of works on paper. This will be a practical demonstration, and attendees are encouraged to bring items along for advice.

Future Meetings

March 26th Kath Trendall, expert dyer and weaver will lecture on Traditional Dyes.

June A ceramic workshop is planned. For details contact the secretary, Farlie Sawday.

WA Museum

The textile Department is now installed in a new workshop, with 2 temporary staff, Prue Griffin and Helen Russell gaining experience while assisting with the work programme.

The organic materials section under the guidance of Nancy Mills Reid is collaborating on a world-wide study of waterlogged wood. Samples have been received from Canada, Britain, Norway and Japan. Samples from Western Australia are currently being organised for distribution.

A CEP grant for 12 months is providing the conservation treatment of material recovered from the wreck of the Vergulde Draeck. Louella Charley is currently deconcreting her way through the cargo of iron billets.

WA Maritime Museum

An expedition is diving in Thailand at the Bight of Bangkok, the wreck site of an unknown vessel with a large cargo of ceramics. The Asian Ships and Ceramics in Trade Programme is one of Australia's major overseas cultural undertakings and is funded under the Australian Research Grants Scheme. Curator of Maritime Archaeology, Jeremy Green, is heading the expedition which includes WA volunteers and their divers. Conservators Nick Sander and Nicola King Smith are working with the Maritime Archaeology section of Thai Fine Arts Department.

This month Graeme Henderson, Curator of Maritime Archaeology is heading an expedition to Norfolk Island where HMS Sirius of the First Fleet foundered in 1790. Archaeological recordings are to be made at the wreck site and material raised. Ian MacLeod of Western Australia will be undertaking the On-site conservation.

This is an Australian Bicentennial Project.

WA Country Conservation Program

Karin Schulz and John Olive have continued the Country Conservation Program. Visits have included Museums at Northampton, Katannug, Tooday and Narembeen. Conservation workshops have been held for staff and Museum volunteers, and advice on storage and recording systems offered. Steven Ansty the WA Museum Travelling Conservator has been assisting them.

Items selected for Treatment in the laboratory include illuminated addresses and a bush scene painted on tin.

Karin has specialised in textiles and paper with John concentrating on inorganic materials and farm machinery. John has been working on a theatre booking box office from the old Colisseum Theatre of the 1890s.

John Buchanan has helped the people of Northampton with a survey of their historic photographs collection.

Kalgoorlie Museum Photographic Programme

Kalgoorlie Museum has an extensive collection of rare glass negatives which are to be copied by a special X-ray film process. Also to be copied are many portrait photographs. The grant includes 12 months funding for 2 darkroom workers. John Buchanan is in charge of the CEP program to survey and record this vast collection of photographic material. He has conducted similar photographic conservation programs in America.

Congratulations

To David Wood, President of ICCM, and Maria on their marriage.

NEW SOUTH WALES

In December a workshop was organised at the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences and given by Anthony Cains — Trinity College, Dublin on various aspects of book conservation.

December Meeting

The end of year meeting was a day trip to Schnapper Island a Sea Scouts Training Base in Sydney Harbour. A B.B.Q. lunch was combined with a guided tour of the Island and its Museum of Maritime Memorabilia.

January Meeting

Sue Walston, Head Conservator of the Australian Museum hosted the meeting of the Abelam Gallery. This was a slide lecture describing the making of many of the totems by the people of the New Guinea Highlands and the seasoning of the timbers in the Museum laboratory prior to being exhibited.

Art Gallery of NSW

Ranson Davey has resigned from the Department for a long holiday scaling mountains, lying in mud pools, in New Zealand. He is greatly missed in the laboratory, but will be resurfacing in the private conservation world in Sydney.

All members of staff have been preparing Condition Reports for 'Pop Art' an exhibition from USA and Europe to open later this month and travel to major Galleries in Australia.

Rosie Peel has rejoined the paper conservation section 2 days a week to help with ongoing exhibition programs. At present Australian Watercolours and European Prints and Drawings 1890-1940 are being treated by Rosie and Susie Bioletti.

Anne Gaulton and Peter Gill continue to cope with the ongoing loans programme. John Passmore, the British Show, TAE and a loan to NSW House, London have been organized.

An informal workshop was organised to coincide with a visit from Alan Phenix, intern at the Tate Gallery, London. Alan discussed a multi-purpose humidifiable hot table for lining paintings, the deacidification of canvas-supported paintings, and acrylic dispersion heat-seal adhesives. Aman Siddique, Paintings Conservator, Ballarat completed the meeting by explaining the construction and use of the lining table he has been building at the Ballarat Regional Conservation Centre.

The State Library of NSW

A new CEP programme has commenced with Mark Stryker organising 9 participants to assist with the conservation of the Clark Papers. This collection of 72 volumes and 36 boxes is being treated at the rate of 300 sheets per week. This involves treatment reports, washing, deacidification, repairs, flattening and placing into folders and custom made boxes for storage. The collection will be completed within the 6 month project time span.

Insurance money will compensate the library for its loss of progress when CEP efforts were diverted from the Architectural Plans project to work on water damage caused by the November rains. The clean up has taken 10 people over 3 months to complete.

The Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences

The Conservation Department continues to grow. David Hill will be giving the March ICCM meeting and explaining the development of the conservation programme.

Sharon Towns has returned to the department, and has been joined by Margaret Juraszek, Catherine Tayler and Julia Scott Waine. Antonia Syme is presently in Thailand assisting with the Maritime Archaeology project organized by WA Maritime Museum.

The first of a number of videos about conservation projects has started with the filming of Julian Bicksteth restoring the Hope Chairs. This pair of gilt and ebonised chairs in the Egyptian style are part of a set of four designed in England in 1805 by Thomas Hope for his house in London. By an as yet undiscovered route, these two surfaced last July at auction in Sydney having been used for the last ten years as trestles in a domestic garage, in the Western suburbs. One of them had lost its arms, the bronzes no doubt making good bookends. Unfortunately, for the Museum, the \$500 reserve price proved to be a little undervalued, and they were eventually bought by the Museum at \$52,000. They have already been x-rayed to work out their construction and bronze copies are being cast for the replacement arms. Julian is enjoying his first big break in the world of Showbiz.

Project Blizzard is an expedition which set out in November 1984 to survey Mawson's Hut in Antarctica. Estelle Lazer the archaeologist with the expedition spent a lot of time in the conservation labs of MAAS with Janet Hughes formulating a conservation programme for this historic site.

A radio conversation with Estelle at Commonwealth Bay, Antarctica took place in the Radio Room at MAAS on January 18, 1985. Pierce Healey, volunteer radio operator assisted with the call. Estelle is doing well and enjoying her stay despite the 3°C and 25-30 knot winds and overcast conditions at the time

of our talk. Estelle has completed the site survey and catalogue of objects found in the hut and installed the sample coating materials for testing in the Antarctic environment.

It was apparently very difficult to get inside the hut as the ice was packed with snow, so tunnelling was necessary. Among objects found were leather bindings, some textiles and various papers all in quite good condition. Mould was found on some articles and samples have been taken for identification in Australia. Rust has been found on some items and its appearance and location have been recorded.

Many skeletons have been found, mostly penguins and seals with one husky puppy also. Penguins (mainly Adelie) while extremely friendly and cute are proving to be an archaeological hazard — falling over ropes, stepping on things and generally being disruptive.



Westpac Archives

Westpac Banking Corporation has now appointed Mr James Elwing as Conservator (on staff) to head a Conservation Unit within the Archives. For the past two years James has been with the Archives as Consultant Conservator on a contract basis. The bank has now made a commitment to an ongoing effective conservation program.

The Museum Association of Australia Inc. NSW Branch

The Museum Association of Australia has recently appointed a Field Officer, Mary-Louise Williams. Mary-Louise will take over many of the more general museum issues. Donna now hopes she can concentrate more on conservation surveys and treatment of objects.

The Australian Museum

Sue Walston and Sue Gatenby are undertaking a review of The Australian Museum's ethylene oxide fumigation procedures. The aims of the review are to identify whether current procedures are (a) safe for operators, (b) appropriate for collections and (c) an efficient use of resources.

Sue and Graeme Batho are also working on a project for the Development of Routine Tests for the Evaluation of Conservation Materials: Stage 1 — Resins for Consolidation and Adhesion. The experimental work is almost complete.

The 1984/87 programme for the ICOM Conservation Committee Working Group on Ethnographic Materials is well underway. Karen Coote and Sue Walston (Co-ordinator) are working on an international ethnographic conservation survey — one aspect of the programme. Anyone interested in knowing more about the group contact Sue or Karen.

Karen is working on the final stages of mounting the Aboriginal Gallery. She is also investigating adhesives for joining and consolidating stalagmites and stalactites.

David Horton-James is teaching all conservation staff in the use of the computer environmental monitoring system. The system has now been operating successfully for 18 months. He is also doing work on the Anthropology storage in the new building which is to be built at the Museum by the end of 1985. This new building is also to contain the new Conservation laboratory.

Sydney Maritime Museum

Sydney Maritime Museum has received the country's largest single Bicentennial grant under the New South Wales Commemorative programme. The grant of \$1.5 million will go towards the restoration of the 1874 sailing ship JAMES CRAIG. This massive project coincides with the announcement of the relocation of the museum at Darling Harbour by 1988.

JAMES CRAIG was discovered by the museum in Tasmania in the early 1970s. Hulked and abandoned she had lain forgotten for over 40 years. A difficult ten-year salvage operation followed and in 1981 she was towed back into Sydney Harbour, there to await full restoration.

The original plans for the ship have been lost, so extensive research using photographs, personal memories and comparison with other vessels of the period has been used to provide the detail necessary for the restoration.

To recreate a fully authentic JAMES CRAIG the ship's hull will be repaired, renewed and riveted. She will have new decks, deck fittings, masts and sails. When complete she will be the fully operational sailing ship that traded round the world at the turn of the century. Restoration will be carried out at Rozelle Bay on Sydney Harbour, and when complete the new National Maritime Museum being developed there.

Conservation Art and Library Services

C.A.L.S. has been dissolved and Tony Chadwick and Rosie Peel have formed 2 companies. Tony's new company is Fine Art Conservation Pty Ltd., and Rosie's is called Paper Conservation Services Pty. Ltd. Both still operate from the same address 5 Bungay Street, Leichhardt NSW 2040.

Regional Galleries Association of New South Wales Ltd

It is estimated that more than 50,000 items are held in Regional Collections in New South Wales, many of them in desperate need of conservation. Cathy Lilllico and Aviva Burnstock are of the opinion that they have made an effective contribution towards the general conservation of endangered items.

Treatments have been carried out on paintings from Broken Hill, Tamworth, Wollongong, Penrith, Albury and the S.H. Ervin Gallery in Sydney. Visits have been made to Penrith, Wollongong and Lake Macquarie, where condition reporting or emergency treatments were effected on-site. In March it is planned to visit Newcastle, Lake Macquarie, Muswellbrook, Tamworth, Armidale, Lismore, Coffs Harbour and Taree. Most of these places will be visited for survey and assessment purposes, to enable future work to be done in Sydney, however emergency treatments will be conducted in Muswellbrook and Lismore.

At the beginning of February, Allan Byrne was commissioned to undertake a Feasibility Study into the establishment of a Regional Conservation Centre, together with a Mobile Conservation Service. To date he has visited the majority of Regional Galleries in NSW and has also taken the opportunity to visit Victoria and South Australia to speak with Conservators and Officers of the Ministry for the Arts concerning the establishment of Conservation Centres in those States. It is hoped that the study will be completed by the end of March and that this document will be the basis of a policy statement for future conservation planning to be presented to the New South Wales Government later in the year.

Forthcoming Meetings

March 6th

David Hill, Senior Curator of Conservation, Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences will talk about the conservation program in the Museum. To be held at the Power House Museum, Stage 1 theatrette.

April 17th

Judy Birmingham will speak about the Society of Historical Archaeology at The Australian Museum, Hallstrom theatre.

May 15th

Wendy Holland, Quiltmaker and Heather Joynes, representing the Embroiders Guild. The meeting will be 'Quilts and their Conservation' and will be held at the Embroiders Guild.

NEWS FROM OTHER ORGANISATIONS

COUNCIL OF HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS (NSW)

C.O.H.O. acts as a watch dog and lobby group for heritage related issues in New South Wales. The New South Wales Division of I.C.C.M. is represented by Karen Coote, and the latest issue C.O.H.O. has undertaken to support the National Parks Association of New South Wales, in their presentation to the Minister for Planning and Environment of a document urging measures to conserve the Liverpool Plains Grassland.

The grasslands lie in the Boggabri-Gunnedah-Quirindi region of New South Wales, and are dominated by a species *Stipa aristiglumis*. Though . . . 'the species itself is not immediately threatened with extinction, the natural communities in which it occurs have been altered throughout most of its range by grazing or clearing for agriculture.' This area has not yet been sampled or securely reserved in any appropriate way, such as natural park or nature reserve.

C.O.H.O. maintains that adequate samples of these lands should be set aside, not only to conserve the botanical species *Stipa aristiglumis*, but to preserve some of the heritage of New South Wales which was found so productive and hence exploited so energetically in the agricultural development of the State.

THE NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA (NSW)

With support from the New South Wales Government and Caltex Oil (Australia) Pty. Ltd., the National Trust are to promote HERITAGE WEEK 85, 14-21 April. The Heritage Week Committee wish it to be a week of discovery for everyone, and a time for all those who are custodians of knowledge about the evolving Australian heritage to share that knowledge with others.

HERITAGE WEEK HOTLINE (02) 27 2133 from April 12.

Programmes of events available from:

National Trust Shops

Libraries or Tourist Offices

Also watch the Daily Telegraph and other newspapers for daily events.

ICOM AUSTRALIA

Australia, through the ICCM, has been invited to host the next Triennial Meeting of the ICOM Committee for Conservation during 1987.

Colin Pearson was recently elected Co-ordinator of the Working Group on Training in Conservation and Restoration during the ICOM meeting in Copenhagen. At the same meeting, Sue Walston was elected Co-ordinator of the Working Group on Ethnographic Materials.

OVERSEAS NEWS

NEW ZEALAND — SOCIETY FOR CULTURAL CONSERVATION INC.

Disaster Preparedness Workshop

During October 1984, a workshop at Christchurch was organised by Tony Clarke and Jeavons Baillie and was attended by 20 people. It was initiated by Josie Lang, the Canterbury Museum's Librarian, who had attended a similar workshop in Dunedin in 1983. Having first approached the Christchurch Fire Service for the provision of a smoke chamber, she was finally able to gain the support of the Royal N.Z. Airforce at Wigram, where a complete fire fighting facility with a smoke tower and all the necessary equipment to hold a workshop of this kind could be provided.

The workshop scenario was staged to simulate a collection housed in a small museum, (the smoke tower) which had been damaged by water used as an extinguishing agent on a fire in an adjacent building. The items were removed and transported to a sorting and drying facility (an aircraft hanger) about half a mile away.

Participants from the Canterbury area were keen to continue their associations formed during the workshop and hope to form a disaster action team for the region.

POSTERS STILL AVAILABLE

The posters advertising the Conference, 'Conservation and Contemporary Art' which are limited edition silk-screen prints, and considered works of art, are still available. The posters were commissioned from Redback Graphics, Wollongong. This and other posters by Redback Graphics have been purchased for the print collection of the Art Gallery of NSW and by other galleries throughout Australia. If you would like to purchase one for your collection, a small number are still available for \$10, plus \$1 postage, from Susie Biolley, Conservation Department, Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney, 2000. Phone (02) 221 2100. Cheques should be made payable to ICCM NSW Division.

CONSERVATION AND CONTEMPORARY ART



1984 NATIONAL CONFERENCE APRIL 16 - 19

ENQUIRIES SYDNEY 357 6862, 331 5258

ICCM INSTITUTE FOR THE CONSERVATION OF CULTURAL MATERIAL (INC.)

ENQUIRIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

HASSLE FREE PAYMENT OF US SUBSCRIPTIONS

I am trying to locate a willing Australian partner for a series of financial transactions. To explain: As a foreigner who belongs to the ICCM and who occasionally orders Australian publications, I often find it necessary to obtain foreign currency drafts in Australian dollars. The service fee for such bank transactions is steep — often equal to or greater than the cost of the publication or membership. In an attempt to avoid spending necessary monies, I am looking for an Australian conservator who spends sums of money on US publications and memberships. I envision an arrangement under which that person and I put aside equal sums of money (we would choose the rate of exchange for an arbitrary day — perhaps January 1st) which I would then use to pay for local membership fees, conference registration fees, bills for supplies, etc. for the other person. In that way, each of us would be saved the cost and the hassle involved in purchasing foreign currency drafts.

Rebecca Anne Rushfield
150-14 Melbourne Avenue
Flushing, New York, 11367
USA

BOOK REVIEWS

In the Enquiries and Announcements section of the December ICCM Newsletter it was said that Mr Bruce Ford would be able to review books on conservation subjects. As Mr Ford is a Chemist, he would rather restrict the range of books to those with a fairly heavy chemistry or materials science bias. Please mark correspondence.

'Book Reviews'
Mr Bruce Ford,
ICCM Inc.,
P.O. Box 1638,
Canberra City, ACT 2601

DISASTER PLANNING IN AUSTRALIA

Having read on several occasions of the awareness and preparedness of the N.Z. Society for Cultural Conservation Group in training for emergency action in times of disaster, I would be interested to hear if any such groups have been formed in Australia, or if not, who is interested in becoming involved in such a group? What sort of equipment or facilities are available at present for this purpose? If you have any information or have any interest in this topic, please write to me before April 30.

Catherine Lillico-Thompson,
Editor, ICCM Newsletter,
Art Gallery of New South Wales,
Domain, NSW 2000

REPORT ON TESTING OF MATERIALS USED IN THE STORAGE OF MICROFILM

Introduction

The Queensland State Archives recently arranged to have the Queensland Government Chemical Laboratory test several samples of adhesive tape and one of plastic to see whether they would cause tarnishing of a silver emulsion. Three of the tapes were being considered for sealing loose lids on the metal canisters used for storing reels of microfilm. The other sample of tape and of plastic were also included as they are often used in the storage of microfilm and photographic records.

Method

Sample description
Scotch 425 aluminium foil tape (acrylic adhesive)
Scotch 850 coloured polyester tape (acrylic adhesive)
Scotch 850 metallised polyester tape (acrylic adhesive)

3M#415 Double-sided tape

A sample of plastic from a 'Kodak' microfilm storage box

Test procedure

The test procedure followed was that described by T. J. Collings and F. J. Young in their article, 'Improvements in some Tests and Techniques in Photograph Conservation', which was published in *Studies in Conservation*, 21 (1976) pages 79-84.

Results

When the samples were tested using the aforementioned method, they did not produce tarnishing of a silver strip after three (3) eight-hour periods at 75°C.

Conclusion

The samples tested were felt to be acceptable for the use in the storage of microfilm. Despite this, a search for a twist-top storage container will continue as this type of accelerated aging test is of limited value.

The conservation staff at the Queensland State Archives would like to acknowledge their gratitude to the Queensland Government Chemical Laboratory for carrying out these tests.

T. J. Lavencic
Conservator
Queensland State Archives

PUBLICATIONS

IIC Conference publications

The following publications are available from the IIC Office, 6 Buckingham Street, London, WCZN 6BA.

Conservation of Wood in Painting and the Decorative Arts (Oxford 1978).

Conservation Within Historic Buildings (Vienna 1980).

Science and Technology in the Service of Conservation (Washington 1982)

Adhesives and Consolidants (Paris 1984).

The price of each volume (effective January 1985) is £10.00/\$15.00, including surface postage.

No longer in print:

Recent Advances in Conservation Rome 1961.

Textile Conservation (Delft 1964).

Museum Climatology (London 1967).

Stone and Wooden Objects (New York 1970).

Paintings and the Graphic Arts (Lisbon 1972).

Archaeology and the Applied Arts (Stockholm 1975).

CONFERENCES

ICCM 1985 CONFERENCE

PERTH

'TOWARDS 2000: CONSERVATION IN AN AUSTRALIAN CONTEXT.'

September 30 — October 3, 1985.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Papers

Papers are invited on the following areas of conservation which will be covered in three concurrent sessions in the Conference.

1. Conservation of objects with emphasis on Ethnographic Materials and Decorative Arts.
2. Conservation of Maritime Archaeological Material.
3. Conservation of Paintings, Paper and Photographic Material.

Participants wishing to present a paper are requested to submit a 150-200 word abstract before May 31, 1985.

Papers should be of 20 minutes duration and 10 minutes will then be allowed for discussion. Dual 35 mm slide and overhead projection facilities will be available.

Abstracts will be reviewed by the Conference Organising Committee and acceptances mailed by June 30, 1985. Abstracts will be printed and distributed to all conference participants.

Posters

Participants presenting posters should submit a thematic summary by May 31, 1985. All enquiries and abstracts sent to:

The Secretary,
ICCM Conference Organising Committee,
C/- W.A. Maritime Museum,
Cliff Street,
FREMANTLE WA 6160

**INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE
FOR CONSERVATION —
CANADIAN GROUP
HALIFAX, CANADA, 1985
COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY IN
CONSERVATION
May 12-16, 1985**

A Preliminary Programme

This training workshop organized by the IIC-CG will be held May 12-16, 1985 in Halifax, Nova Scotia immediately preceding the 11th Annual Conference. An international group of lecturers from such institutions as National Museums of Canada, the Smithsonian Institution, and the J. Paul Getty Trust will cover a broad range of topics relating to the integration of computer technology into the practise of Conservation. The workshop outline listed below will consist of lectures, demonstrations, practical sessions and discussion groups. Topics in the discussion session will include standardization, networking and long-range planning of a Systems Policy for an International Conservation Computer Network. Experience with computers is not a prerequisite for participation. Those with experience and an interest in the potential for computers in conservation are particularly invited to attend and contribute to the discussions.

Sunday May 12, 1985: Registration

Monday May 13:

- * CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT — financial planning, project management.
- * DOCUMENTATION — treatment records, text storage, recordkeeping.
- * IMAGE STORAGE & RETRIEVAL — graphics, video, laser disc.
- * RECEPTION.

Tuesday May 14:

- * INFORMATION MANAGEMENT — database use, Systems Analysis & Design.
- * SURVEY OF CONSERVATION RELATED DATABASES.
- * DEMONSTRATIONS & TRADE EXHIBITS.
- * HANDS-ON SESSION.

Wednesday May 15:

- * MICROCOMPUTERS IN THE CONSERVATION LAB — case studies of a variety of applications including microprocessor control of environmental monitoring, an integrated software package for conservation labs, computerised condition report writing and a conservation database.
- * PROBLEM SOLVING WITH MICROCOMPUTERS.
- * FORUM/PANEL DISCUSSION — networking, new directions, evaluation.

A registration package will be mailed in early 1985 to all who have made enquiries. There will be a limit to registration. Direct further enquiries to:

John Perkins,
IIC-CG Training workshop,
1532 Birmingham Street,
Halifax, Nova Scotia,
CANADA B3J 2J7

**IIC — CANADIAN GROUP,
HALIFAX, CANADA 1985
ANNUAL CONFERENCE
May 17-19, 1985**

To be held at Dalhousie University, Halifax.

The programme includes papers from delegates from Canada, USA and UK. There will be banquets, receptions, leisure activities and tours. Optional tours also on May 20th.

Enquiries to:

Edward Paterson,
Programme Chairman,
IIC-CG Halifax 85,
1532 Birmingham Street,
Halifax, Nova Scotia,
Canada. B3J 2J7
Phone: (902) 426 7448

Further details

The brevity essential in a title requires expansion. 'Stone' will include polychromy and is expected to cover sculpture and decorative aspects of buildings, as well as related materials such as mortar and cements. It will also extend to an important subsection concerning architectural ceramics, including mosaics. For wall-paintings, we anticipate a wide survey of recent treatments, illustrating progress in the world generally.

Advantage will be taken of the location of the Congress to combine the more formal proceedings with visits to sites where work is in progress, or completed, or planned.

Proposals and suggestions for topics and speakers are invited and should be sent as soon as possible to N.S. Brommelle at the IIC Office, 6 Buckingham Street, London WC2N 6BA, England.

**IIC CONGRESS 1986 BOLOGNA,
ITALY**

CASE STUDIES IN THE CONSERVATION OF STONE AND WALL-PAINTINGS

Bologna (Italy), 21-26 September 1986

A meeting of IIC Council Members, together with Dr Raffaella Rossi-Manaresi, representing the Centro 'Cesare Gnudi' in Bologna, was held during IIC's Congress in Paris in September last year, to discuss the subject, arrangements and date for the Institute's 11th International Congress. There had been earlier correspondence and consideration by the Council since the matter was first broached at the Washington Congress in 1982. The date, determined by both general and local factors, has now been settled.

General Orientation

Regular meetings take place on the deterioration and conservation of stone (including a congress in Lausanne in September this year) and a large proportion of the literature consists of scientific studies and laboratory developments of methods. It was therefore decided that the IIC Congress should present case studies, illustrating by reference to actual treatments the progress that has been made in research and development. These will include preliminary scientific investigation, technical procedures, and results, both technical and aesthetic. The section dealing with wall-paintings will follow similar lines, since, although there is no regular programme of international meetings, the background has been well covered in the book *Conservation of Wall Paintings* by Paolo and Laura Mora and Paul Philippot. This will, in fact, be the first international meeting on the subject for some years.

**ICOM COMMITTEE FOR
CONSERVATION**

8th TRIENNIAL MEETING, 1987

The ICOM Committee for Conservation is one of the major committees of ICOM (International Council of Museums). Every three years an international meeting is held to bring together conservators working in all fields of conservation from around the world. To date, apart from one meeting held in Ottawa, all of the triennial meetings have taken place in Europe. Following the most recent meeting held in Copenhagen in 1984, the Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Material (ICCM) made a successful bid to hold the 8th triennial meeting in Australia. There has been a growing and significant contribution made by Australian conservators over the past decade on both a national and international basis, and the choice of Australia is a recognition of our conservation status in a developing part of the world.

This is a preliminary notice to all persons concerned with cultural collections management, to set aside the dates 6-12 September 1987. The meeting will take place at the Sydney Hilton International Hotel.

One of the major aims and objectives of the ICOM Committee for Conservation is to foster the development of conservation between all persons concerned with the management of cultural collections. This includes curators, librarians, archivists, scientists, historians, conservators etc. To this end the Committee consists of over 25 different working groups covering all aspects of conservation. The activities of these Groups are designed to encourage involvement by the range of disciplines mentioned above, and to coin a phrase, the meeting in Sydney should therefore have something for everyone.

The meeting will take place at an interesting time, three months prior to the opening of the Bicentennial Celebrations in 1988. This will allow overseas delegates to study our preparations, in all aspects of management, conservation and display of collections.

It is hoped that it will be possible to organise other related international meetings to coincide with the ICOM Committee for Conservation Meeting, and interested organisations are asked to contact Dr. Colin Pearson at the address below. All members will be kept informed of the details of the meeting through this and other similar publications.

Dr. C. Pearson
Meeting Coordinator
C/- Conservation of Cultural Materials
Section,
Canberra College of Advanced
Education,
P.O. Box 1, Belconnen, ACT 2616.

COURTAULD INSTITUTE OF ART, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON DIPLOMA IN CONSERVATION OF WALL PAINTINGS COURSE

A three-year course is offered in the conservation of wall paintings, commencing October 1, 1985.

It is open to graduates in art, art history, archaeology or the natural sciences. There will be places for up to six students, and for three or more of these financial support will be available.

Further information, and an application form, are obtainable from The Registrar, Courtauld Institute of Art, 20 Portman Square, London W1H OBE, UK. Applications should be made by March 1985.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS HERITAGE WEEK SEMINARS April 14-21, 1985

R.A.I.A. are planning to host a series of day-long seminars in conjunction with Local Councils as part of Heritage Week and at a later date in 1985. Some of the topics include; 'The Role of Conservation Authorities;' 'Documentary Research;' 'Sympathetic Alterations/Additions, Common Mistakes;' and 'Builders and Architects: Contracts and Selection.' Booklets on these topics and further information are available from: The Royal Australian Institute of Architects, 196 Miller Street, North Sydney NSW 2060. Phone: (02) 923 1166

AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY FIFTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE LA TROBE UNIVERSITY, MELBOURNE May 27-28, 1985

For further information, contact: David Frankel, C/- Dept. of Prehistory, La Trobe University, Melbourne.

FOURTH AUSTRALASIAN CONGRESS IN GENEALOGY AND HERALDRY CANBERRA May 8-11, 1986

Planning for the Fourth Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry to be held in Canberra between 8 and 11 May 1986 under the patronage of His Excellency, Sir Ninian Stephen, the Governor-General of Australia, is well under way.

Anthony J. Camp, Director of the Society of Genealogists, London, and one of Britain's outstanding genealogists, is to be principal Congress Speaker. Mr Camp has been actively involved in almost every genealogical development in England in the last 27 years, his particular interest being in the preservation of records and their access. He has lectured widely in Europe and the USA and is the author of many books, articles and various guides to genealogical sources. He has been honoured both in Britain and in America for his distinguished service to genealogy.

Supporting Mr Camp will be leading Australasian genealogists, Nick Vine Hall, Director of the Society of Australasian Genealogists, and Verna Mossong, Immediate Past President of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists. Both are respected speakers of international standing and the contribution of these and other qualified speakers from Britain, the United States New Zealand and Australia, with whom the Fourth Congress Committee is currently negotiating, should make the 4 day programme stimulating and exciting for participants.

If you have not yet returned your Preliminary Registration of Interest form, please do so as a matter of urgency as your subject preferences will be used as a guide in finalising the programme. This, together with registration forms will be distributed in June and the Committee is asking for firm registrations by mid-November. The Congress address is: GPO Box 666, Canberra, ACT, 2601.

POSITIONS VACANT

WESTPAC BANKING CORPORATION ARCHIVES Assistant Conservators

Applications are sought for 2 positions of Assistant Conservator.

Duties involve conservation and restoration treatments on a wide range of archival material under the direction of the Conservator and assistance with surveys of the collection, environmental monitoring and research into conservation problems.

Tertiary qualifications in conservation or equivalent are regarded as essential; experience in conservation work, especially archives conservation, is desirable.

Attractive salary will be offered depending upon experience and qualifications. Generous superannuation and other fringe benefits are included.

Applications should be submitted by 8 March, 1985 to Senior Archivist, Westpac Banking Corporation Archives, P.O. Box 14, Pyrmont NSW 2009.

THE ROBERT McDougall ART GALLERY Christchurch, New Zealand

Paper Conservator

The Robert McDougall Art Gallery, a Department of the Christchurch City Council, seeks a Paper Conservator to monitor the condition of the Gallery's collections and carry out conservation of works on paper in a well equipped laboratory. This is a sole charge position.

Applicants should be graduates of recognised conservation programmes or possess equivalent experience. Must be flexible in dealing with treatment and will be required at times to advise a variety of smaller museums, libraries and historical societies. Minimum two year contract required.

Christchurch is New Zealand's third largest centre of population (290,000) is a culturally oriented city with good schools, a university, recreational amenities and is close to beaches and ski fields.

Further information, conditions of employment and application forms may be obtained from:

The Director,
Robert McDougall Art Gallery,
P.O. Box 2626,
Christchurch,
NEW ZEALAND.

Applications close May 1985.