



EDITORIAL

This is the first issue of the Newsletter from your new editorial committee in Canberra. The fact that you are reading this means that the change-over from sunny Queensland to the more wintry climes of Canberra has been a smooth one. I would like to begin by thanking Tamara Laurencic, the outgoing editor, for the time she has spent in making this transition as painless as possible, and also to the Australian War Memorial and Australian Archives ACT for their support in the production of the Newsletter.

Some members may remember that the format of the Newsletter and Bulletin was discussed by Julian Bickersteth, AICCM Publications Officer, in the editorial of the Newsletter No. 38 March 1991. Julian raised the question of whether or not a different format would better serve our needs and should be adopted instead. At the AICCM National Council Meeting on the 15th June 1991, it was decided to leave the format as it is for the time being as the comments received from the membership suggested that the current format works well.

This does not mean that these publications should remain static in any way. Members will see that with the change to a new editorial committee there have been a few cosmetic alterations in the appearance of the Newsletter, as well as a change in form with the introduction of a pull-out **Calendar** of workshops and conferences.

This is a particularly full issue. The debate as to the future of the AICCM and its relationship with CAMA continues with a reply by Dr Des Griffin, President of CAMA, to Andrew Durham's letter in the June 1991 issue.

Several of the AICCM Specialty Groups have made major contributions using the Newsletter as a means of disseminating information regarding their activities. We certainly hope that this dialogue continues.

The Heritage Working Group Interim Report **Conservation and Access - Managing the Moveable Cultural Heritage Resources of Australia** is an important document and raises many important issues for all of us who work with cultural heritage.

The vitality of any of our publications depends on all members playing an active role in contributing to them. I urge all members to make contributions of one sort or another to the Newsletter. It could be a technical note on some aspect of your work, treatments or materials; a short note on the availability of equipment or supplies; a letter expressing a particular viewpoint on some issue important to the conservation profession; or an entertaining conservation anecdote.

Any comments or suggestions as to what you would like to see included in the Newsletter are always welcomed.

Happy reading.

Gina Drummond, Editor



NEW MEMBERS

Ordinary Members

B. E. Cosgrove; L. R. Squires; J. O'Connor; J. D. Burnett;
S. A. Stevens; Ian Potter Conservation Centre; B. Cena;
A. M. Simper; B. Berzins; R. F. Parris; J. Valley; N. Jarry.

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AICCM NOTICES

Membership Fees

Members are reminded that 1991/1992 membership fees are now due.

Prompt payment is vital in assisting the National Council in planning and implementing the AICCM's yearly activities. If you have overlooked payment, please attend to it now.

Request for Donations to the Gerry Hedley Research Fellowship - Reminder

Members are reminded that donations for the Gerry Hedley Research Fellowship are still being accepted. Any contribution would be warmly welcomed. Cheques should be made out to: The AICCM (Gerry Hedley Fund), and sent to GPO Box 1638, Canberra ACT 2601, so that a single cheque can then be sent on to the Courtauld Institute of Art.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

CAMA, AICCM and a Single Museums Association

Andrew Durham, ACT Division President, expresses great concern (letters, June 1991) about the proposal now under discussion within CAMA, that a single association for all museum people be formed. There are some particular points that are just plain wrong and others that are of importance and must be taken up.

What is at issue is the role of conservation in museums. It is vital! I have said that within CAMA, and practical evidence of my views can be found in my own museum where Materials Conservation is a highly valued, vitally important and, when needed, protected, component of the Australian Museum.

I am dumbfounded by assertions that a single journal would necessarily give less prominence to conservation issues than they merit; where has it been said or written that the journal will have "minimal conservation-related content"?

Zac 201 334 7458

If the aim of the single association is to bring museum people even closer together, and it very definitely is, what on earth is the relevance of the imputation that "our profession needs unity, not further division"? What evidence is there that "the proposed association would have quite differing aims and objectives"? In what document is there an "offensive omission" of both private and library and archive conservators?

The important statement by one of Canada's most respected conservators, Philip Ward, is of vital importance: if conservators want to make major advances then they need to stop being invisible to the museological profession and they need to influence the people who handle collections, the curators. If conservators want to influence the museum profession then they need to actively join it.

Like all sensible associations, membership should be open to all interested in its aims and be prepared to work to achieve them. CAMA has asked the Archives Association to affiliate with it: they have said they will not at this stage. I know that there are a large number of conservators who are not on the staff of any organisation. The association would surely want to accommodate them, and hear their voice.

AICCM took about two years to affiliate with CAMA. It demanded, almost, that CAMA incorporate before it affiliate. Since it was affiliated when matters like joint secretariat have been discussed, it has been difficult for other CAMA Board members to understand what AICCM's position is. Nothing that others on the CAMA Board have done has diminished AICCM's influence.

Two further points. It is reported on p1 of the same newsletter an AICCM sub-committee has made a major contribution to the survey of collections being carried out for the Heritage Collections Working Group (HCWG). The HCWG exists because of extremely hard work by a small group of people from the CAMA Board!

Together, museum people, including some conservators, are dramatically advancing the image and understanding of Australia's heritage collections. The Cultural Minister's Council has the matter firmly on its agenda. Has it been there before? The CAMA Board is now considering a number of other issues brought forth in the comprehensive AICCM sub-committee report. Are these sufficient accomplishments?

The statement, "it is unrealistic to expect our membership to devote further resources towards groups which share little interest with our profession" does not, I hope, represent the views of conservators. For if it does, we might as well pack up our bat and ball and go home. Isn't it clear yet that if a group wishes to gain recognition it has to join with like-minded people? Are conservators just going to go away and hide in their burrow? Or is it just people from the ACT who are going to secede from the rest of Australia?

The importance of arts and heritage in Australia is at a crucial point: we must ask informed questions about how our agenda can be advanced. It's up to all of us!

Des Griffin
President of CAMA



PEOPLE & PROJECTS



AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Australian National Gallery

The Conservation section is at the moment going through staff cuts due to economic restraints. Unfortunately, 2.5 positions will be lost during this financial year.

Allison Holland has just completed a successful Lipase enzyme treatment on two woodcut prints which suffered from discoloured oil stains. She is on leave attending the ICCROM Paper Course in Vienna and the ARSAG Conference.

Erica Burgess has finished removing the discoloured varnish layer from Benjamin Duterrau's "Mr Robinson's First Interview with Timmy" (c1840). The decision to inpaint the extensive drying cracks is under discussion with curators. Meanwhile, analysis of the paintings construction is being done before some structural work and varnishing.

Bruce Ford's textile fading project is due for publication in *Studies in Conservation* later this year. Work is completed on the testing of resins soaps for stripping oil from paintings using GC/MS and also his rock art pigment study in the Kimberley Ranges, WA. Both to be published in the near future.

Jacqueline Macnaughton is organising the conference "The Articulate Surface" scheduled for 1-3 May 1992.

National Library of Australia

Deborah Woodyard has commenced work with Preservation Services assisting **Kim Morris** in the Paper Conservation laboratory. **Vicki Gillespie** has completed her internship at the Library in association with studying for a Masters Degree at the University of Canberra.

Wendy Smith visited Kuala Lumpur for a week in June to take part in an IFLA Malaysia workshop on 'Maps, Spatial Data and Conservation'. She also gave a Public Lecture at the National Archives of Malaysia on 'The Conservation of Maps in Libraries and Archives with Specific Reference to the Tropics'.

Chesley Engram has been busy preparing maps for loan to the S.H. Ervin Gallery in October for an exhibition 'A Great Discovery: The Unfolding of the Australian Continent', which coincides with a meeting of the International Map Collectors' Society in Sydney. He has also treated and condition reported a large number of items being loaned to the Australian National Maritime Museum for their opening exhibition in November.

Leanne Brandis attended an ALIA Special Interest Group 'Preservation of Library Materials' meeting at the State Library, New South Wales. The topic of recycled and permanent paper was discussed.

Australian War Memorial

This year marks the **50th Anniversary** of the Australian War Memorial. The building was opened on the 11th November 1941, and in November 1991 the War Memorial will commemorate the anniversary with special exhibitions, open days at the conservation and storage annex, a Film Festival, talks in the galleries and a Technology Field day.

Textiles have been preparing recently collected Gulf War items for storage. Items range from gas detectors to "propaganda" T-shirts.

Metals and Chemistry are working with **Christian Degryny**, an electrochemical engineer from Electricite de France, on a joint project. Christian is here for 6 months to investigate the stabilisation of aluminium relics rescued from marine environments. He may also be investigating the electrochemical removal of corrosion products from other metallic and nonmetallic surfaces such as ceramics and leather.

Still in the Chemistry lab, **Chris Adams** and the Surface Analysis facility at the University of New South Wales are working to develop an analytical method of categorisation of chemical conversion coatings used on aluminium. The facility employs X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy and Auger electron spectroscopy as well as several other techniques in their analysis. The technology is new to Australia and is providing detailed elemental analysis of aluminium surface coatings.

Australian Archives

Colin Webb, Jennifer Anderson and **Chris Loretto** have recently returned from a two day trip to Sydney where they visited Australian Archives NSW Regional Office to look at their film and sound storage system. They also visited Cockatoo Island where a major project is underway to remove all the maps, plans, working diagrams, manuals etc. from the island to safe storage before the closure of the dockyard.

Karen Caldwell started work on the 9th May, and has been working on the German/PNG material, preparing it for microfilming. The originals are to be returned to PNG, and a microfilm copy kept here. This project has enabled several Conservators to try their hand at microfilming, and checking and returning microfilms; a deadly boring but insightful task.

Karen is leaving us on 20 August to go to the UK to do a book conservation course at the Guildford College of Technology. We wish her all the best.

Other projects underway include improving the storage of 120 rolled panoramic photographs which are in the Copyright collection. The photographs are all very dirty but it takes up to a week to flatten, clean and repair each one, so improving their storage is seen as a step in their preservation with conservation to follow at a later date.



NEW SOUTH WALES

Australian Archives

Robyn Lowe is working with **Guy Petherbridge** on specifications for plan and file folders for the majority of the regions. Large numbers of plans and photographic records from Cockatoo Island are still being prepared for transfer and storage by Preservation Services. **Robyn** is also finalising her paper for the forthcoming CAMA Conference.

Anita Gustavson has attended a one day APPITA seminar, "The A B C's of Pulp and Papermaking" at Monash University in Melbourne. Prior to this she presented part of a one day workshop on 'The Care of Personal Collections' with **Doug Zirhul** for members of the Australian Historical Societies at History House. In between, **Anita** has been treating broken gelatin dry plates and analysing the results of the condition survey of current photographic holdings.

Museums Association of Australia

Life at the MAA continues to be busy. **Jenny Dickens** has just returned from two weeks at Cobar where she was working on the Far West Children's Scheme Baby Health Car, a clinic in a train carriage. This was a large and challenging job which involved supervision of (fortunately sympathetic) tradespeople and volunteers to ensure that original components were retained. Before she returned to Sydney **Jenny** also spent some time wading in an icy dam near the Murray River examining a waterlogged dugout canoe.

International Conservation Services

Campbell Conservation and Corrigan International have set up a new company from 1st July 1991, known as International Conservation Services Pty Ltd. All of Campbell Conservation's staff have transferred across into the new company where they will be combining their expertise with the staff of the conservation division of Corrigan. **Julian Bickersteth** has been appointed managing director. It is intended that the new company will have a national profile and will also follow up various opportunities overseas. The existing sections covering textiles, paper, paintings and furniture have been added to with sections covering ceramics & glass, archaeological artefacts and collection management.

Operations will continue at present from Campbell Conservation's premises at 53 Victoria Avenue, Chatswood. Tel: (02) 417 3311. Fax: (02) 417 3102.

The Australian Museum

Sue Gatenby is presently on maternity leave until March next year. Congratulations to Sue, Jim and new baby boy James.

Karen Coote has recently visited the top end to give conservation seminars at Maningrida and Darwin and to monitor conditions of artefacts during transport to Sydney. She gave a one day seminar on her findings at the beginning of July. This is to be followed by a similar trip to central Australia in August and another seminar in December.

Penny Edmonds will be leaving us in August to take up a 2 year Andrew W Mellon Advanced Training Fellowship in Objects Conservation at the National Gallery in Washington D.C. We wish her good luck.

Mark Gilberg has also left us but only for six months while he carries out research into parylene coatings at the CCI, Ottawa. **Alex Roach** is continuing the experimentation into low oxygen fumigation in Mark's absence.

Colin McGregor and **Graeme Scott** were in Canberra for a week in July attending Mark Nizette's course on the Conservation of Photographic Materials.

Margaret McCord is continuing on a part time basis her project on storage of textiles and woven mats.

Several pieces of work are nearing publication stage. The project on the evaluation of resins for flaking paint consolidation has been completed and will be published shortly in *Studies in Conservation*. **Sue Valis** has written an article on her final year project on plant resins, which has been submitted to the AICCM Bulletin. **Colin** is in the final stages of writing up his project on the moulding supports for delicate organic objects. **Graeme** and **Michael Kelly** are writing up the storage support systems used in the new ethnographic stores. They will be presenting this as a paper at the conservation session of the CAMA Adelaide conference in October.

The Powerhouse Museum

Ruth Norton will be combining holidays with work when she attends the Canadian Conservation Institute Symposium 91 on the degradation and conservation of modern materials in September this year.

Suzanne Chee will be attending a workshop on the identification of early synthetic dyes on historical costume textiles and the preparation of standard dyeings at the Smithsonian Institute.

Gosia Dudek will be attending a one day seminar on the conservation of glass at the Irvine Gallery by David Beavis.

Abigail Hart, who has been working with us on a voluntary basis in textiles since March, will be leaving soon to commence the three year Diploma of Textile Conservation at Hampton Court in September.

Lisa Psarianos who has been assisting in the paper lab on a voluntary basis will be attending Camberwell College next year and will be assisted by a Queen Elizabeth II Trust Grant. Congratulations Lisa!

A new member on staff is **Susie Stevens** who is assisting in the Paper Lab for the four months that **Janine Beardmore** is on leave. **Anne Gaulton** has also joined us on a part-time basis working in mixed-media and will be commencing work soon on the auto-giro, an early flying machine.

Jenny Blakely, after spending 13 years with us, has retired to spend her time in the country with her cows in calf.

Ellie McFadyen has returned after five months leave during which she worked on her masters thesis in the deterioration and conservation of tin plate.

The Goethe-Institut in conjunction with the Powerhouse Museum will be holding two conservation workshops with **Heinrich Fendel** which will focus on metals, glass and ceramics conservation. **Heinrich** will also be presenting a lecture on his involvement in Sudan Archeological Project 1986 and 1988.



QUEENSLAND

State Library of Queensland

An upcoming project involves treatment of a document which measures 59.5cm x 228cm. Dated 1870 it records a family tree on a single sheet of paper. The combination of heavy-handed use of iron-gall ink and being rolled for storage has resulted in severe cracking and fracturing of the paper in the text areas. Treatment will include facing the document with Klucel G in isopropanol, removal of the deteriorated cloth backing, repair, rebacking using the remoistenable lining method and encapsulation.



SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Artlab Australia

The AGM for the AICCM SA Division was well attended. **Christopher Menz**, the Associate Curator of European and Australian Decorative Arts at the Art Gallery of South Australia, presented a talk on the collection of Morris and Co. textiles that are to be found in South Australia. Adelaide has one of the largest collections of the company's work outside England.

Virginia Dahlenburg has resigned from Artlab to move "home" to Melbourne to work at the Victorian Centre for Conservation of Cultural Materials.

The Textiles section has been very busy finishing a silk quilt from Carrick Hill. The quilt was encased between two layers of silk crepe-line to support the original fabric as it was splitting under the tension caused by the sewn quilting lines.

Linda Berko has just completed a survey of the entire Mawson Collection for the South Australian Museum. This work will be used in the future for assessing the conservation priorities for the collection. The document contains a lot of very useful information on the objects and their requirements.

Deb Spoehr has been working on three painted silk embroideries. These objects are interesting as they consist of extremely fragile painted silk that has a loose linen backing. The two fabrics are embroidered together with wool embroidery threads. This type of embroidery was popular in the early 1800s and it is quite remarkable that they have survived due to the fineness of the silk.

Work has begun on a group of bark paintings for Flinders University. The pigment on the barks have been consolidated and special mounts have been constructed for their display. A polyurethane backing has been moulded to fit each bark individually.

Amber Rowe is commencing work on the "Heritage of Namatjira" exhibition. This will involve the preparation of pieces for a travelling exhibition which may be on the road for several years.

Two new volunteers have commenced work in the paintings department. **Tracy Norton** is attending art school in Adelaide at the moment and is hoping to gain enrolment in the conservation course at Canberra University. **Carmel Nicholas** has partially completed her conservation training in Italy.

Fred Francisco is working on a collection of Ambrotypes and Daguerrotypes for the Art Gallery of South Australia. He is also deframing, condition checking and documenting a number of photographs and water colours from the Museum, Port Adelaide. The pieces have been severely infested with mould and are at the moment being fumigated.

Fiona MacKinnon is currently conserving a semi-limp vellum bound volume from 1616 and is continuing with the collection survey of the Anthropological archives for the museum.

Hank Bohmer is working on the Burra and Yunta mines survey maps for the Mortlock library.

Helen Halley has just completed an interesting object. She was presented with a Talley board from the 1920s. The sheet of acidic cardboard was mended and returned to the shearing shed from which it came. The conserved sheet is now hanging in its historic context for future generations to see.

David Tilbrook has recently returned from a fact finding mission to the USA. During his visit he spoke to the Director of the Getty Conservation Laboratory, Dr Frank Proser, and also Dr. Nevil Agnew about conservation projects and analytical methods currently being undertaken there.

David also visited the Smithsonian Conservation Analytical Laboratory in Washington DC. On his world travels he also called in to say "Hello" to Sarah Slade, who is having a great time working in Scotland.



TASMANIA

Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery

Stephanie McDonald (State Library) and **Jude Fraser** (QVMAG) attended a workshop on the Conservation of Photographic Materials at the University of Canberra in July.

Terese Mulford (QVMAG) spent a month at the WA Maritime Museum working with **Nikki King Smith** on trade union banners. This was part of an exchange programme between the two institutions. Nikki will be working at the QVMAG in September.

Funding has continued for the QVMAG's large technological objects projects. Construction of another large storage/work shed is planned. **Michael Smith**, **Louise James** and **Jeff Burgess** and numerous volunteers are working with **Linda Clark** on the project.

As a result of the Departmental rearrangements, the State Library Conservation Section is now administered by the Archives Office of Tasmania. Eighty percent of the section's work is from the Archives while the other twenty comes from the State Library's special collections; the Allport Library and Museum of Fine Arts and the Tasmaniana Library. Recent work for Archives has included the repair of Convict Transport Lists from 1842-1849; repair and rehousing of silk programmes from the Theatre Royal, one of Australia's oldest theatres; and continuing work plans of gun batteries around Hobart. **Wendy Hyland** was employed in June on a special project: re-housing a collection of photographs from the Archives collection.



VICTORIA

State Library of Victoria

Katrina Ben, conservator from the SLV Bindery is leaving for Switzerland to take part in the book conservation course at Ascona. Congratulations to Katrina who is the successful recipient of a QEII Jubilee Trust Grant towards the fees for the Ascona course.

The staff in general, particularly **Debbie Breen** and **David Harris**, are delighted that at long last the Conservation Issue of the La Trobe Library Journal is at the printers. This labour of love covers general conservation topics and some specialist treatment projects carried out over the past few years. Hopefully, copies will be available in July at a cost of \$5.00.

The glass plate cleaning program associated with the SLV "Victoria in Pictures" video disc program has moved a step closer with the negotiation by **Susu Nousala** of borrowed lab space in the MOV, Francis Street, headquarters.

Museum of Victoria

Anne Wright has returned from an overseas trip and has resumed work on the "Scienceworks" Project. The Scienceworks Team have been preparing a "Scope of Works" for a group of volunteers to prepare the Spotswood pumping engines for display.

National Gallery of Victoria

Work is continuing for the opening of the new Australian Gallery. All is proceeding well and Hugh Ramsay's "Equestrian Group" has been the centre of attention.

Gillian Leahy is working on an extensive project about McCubbin's technique, and pearls of wisdom are most appreciated.

John Payne recently took a few Constables to the Tate Gallery and made it back safely.

Deborah Greig has been doing some analytical work in conjunction with the Forensic Science Labs, mostly involving the SEM and FTIR.

Tom Mosby seems to have readjusted to the colder climate and is in the new Objects Lab.

Ian Potter Art Conservation Centre

Research on the Australian Artist' Program is well under way and the Centre has appointed **Lois Mathieson** as Scientific Officer. Lois has a chemistry, fine arts and museum studies background. The Centre is currently examining instrumentation for the project, as well as working on accelerated aging tests for painting and resin samples.

The Centre is working on the Victorian Arts Centre Trust's collection of paintings, whilst **Tom Mosby** was working on bark paintings at the NGV laboratories.

Archival Heritage/Public Record Office

Preservation activity continues on a broad front, with involvement in co-operative projects, particularly with records management and repository sections, eg. preparation for microfilming, advice to agencies, transfer of records to the PRO, macro conservation work and exhibition preparation.

Mary and Trish Stokes (VCCCM) ran two weekend workshops for students of the RMIT Administrators' Course Conservation Unit.

Victorian Centre for the Conservation of Cultural Materials

The Centre has engaged in a detailed study of the Rupert Bunny 'The Forerunners' damaged in the St Kilda Town Hall fire, initially to determine appropriate treatment methodologies.

The treatment of the Melbourne Cricket Club Collection photographs have revealed the unpredictable and sensitive nature of deteriorated photographic processes.



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Maritime Museum

Nikki King Smith, Ian Godfrey and **Vicki Richards** are beginning a research project on the conservation of iron impregnated rope.

Vicki continues her research on the consolidation of degraded deacidified **Batavia** timbers with Luviskol K30 and the mechanisms of degradation of metal impregnated waterlogged wood.

David Gilroy has been very involved with the organisation of the WA Museum's "Treasures of the Collection" exhibition and setting up the new environment controlled gallery. Of special interest was the construction of a storage/display case for the museum's 4,500 year old mummified Thylacine.

Nikki is spending September at the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery in Launceston, Tasmania, as part of an exchange with **Therese Mulford** working on Trade Union Banners.

Emmanuelle Charton, an honorary research associate from Paris, has been assisting with the analysis of the effects of animal excreta on the kaolinitic pigments at **Waiga Rock**.

Laurent Mezin, an honorary research associate from Paris, is currently studying the degradation of wood in Polyethylene Glycol solutions.

Ian MacLeod has developed and tested a mechanism for the conversion of the intensely white pigment huntite into the very stable cream coloured mineral whewellite (a hydrated calcium oxalate). These pigments are from rock art sites in the West Kimberley region.

Conservators in Private Practice continue to be kept busy. **Pratricia Moncrieff**, Textile Conservation and Restoration Workshop, has been working on a wide range of projects from a silk wedding dress dated 1852 to a three piece suit designed by **Cristobel Balenciaga** in the 1960's.

Sylvia Bass, now working from her private studio, has been treating works on paper for the City of Geraldton.

Doug Firth, Glyde Gallery, has been working on collection items owned by the ALP and the Perth Mint. **Greg Manzie** will be undertaking the conservation framing.

Art Gallery of WA

Jenny Casey participated in the one week course 'Conservation of Photographic Media' at the University of Canberra.

The slightly larger than life statue of Adam by Rodin went back on display after a two year absence. Adam suffered from bronze disease after being exposed to hydrochloric acid used in the cleaning of Perth Central Railway Station. Oleic acid was used to treat the statue in a new treatment developed by **John Olive**.

Library and Information Service of Western Australia

Three new faces in the LISWA Preservation Services are Paper conservator **Amanda Simper**, Photographic Technician **Lee Martin** and Bookbinder **Tim Cooke**. Amanda is no stranger to the Library's preservation facility however, as she has been employed as a contract paper conservator for the past twelve months. Lee has also had a close association with Preservation Services from her previous employment with the State Microfilm Bureau. Tim, on the other hand, is a newcomer to Australia having arrived the week he commenced work with the Library.

The Library has finalized its first Preservation Policy document, and has also completed a draft Blueprint for Preservation Awareness Raising, Staff Training and Development.



SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Conservation Science Group

Call for papers

Would all those members of AICCM who at this stage intend to submit a paper for inclusion in the Conservation Science session of the 1992 AICCM conference please notify **David Tilbrooke** at the address below before the 30th of September.

If a working title and a brief outline of the topic to be discussed could be included this will help in early programme planning.

Poster session topics can also be proposed.

David Tilbrooke, Artlab Australia

Archival Paper Action Committee (APAC)

The ALIA Special Interest Group for the Preservation of Library Materials held a meeting on 23 May 1991 at the State Library of NSW on the topic **Paper, Recycled and Permanent Paper: What's the Difference**. **Leanne Brandis**, a member of AICCM / APAC accepted the invitation to speak as the representative of AICCM. A copy of the **Draft Australian Standard: Recycled Paper: A Glossary of Terms** was circulated to all AICCM divisions and to kindred interest groups for comment. AICCM supported the adoption of the **Draft Interim Standard for Permanent uncoated paper and paperboard** as an Australian Standard but as the vote failed to achieve consensus a further meeting was held on 15 August.

A proposal put forward by CSIRO in relation to conservator training has been deferred pending advice from AICCM's Training and Education Committee.

AICCM's Editorial Committee is to be commended on the publication of the Launceston Conference Papers and especially in obtaining sponsorship from APPM for the printing on Archival Paper.

The Canberra based committee of AICCM / APAC is looking for new members. Please contact Murray Millar, Australian War Memorial.

Wet Organics Group

Listed below are the names and contact numbers of members of the Wet Organics Group. If conservators need advice regarding any aspect of the treatment of wet organic materials then please use this list as the resource it is meant to be. It is an initial point of contact from which either advice may be given or a referral made (if necessary).

Australian National Maritime Museum GPO Box 5131 Sydney NSW 2001 Ph: (02) 552 7777 Fax: (02) 552 2318	Sue Bassett Janet Hughes
Australian War Memorial GPO Box 345 Canberra ACT 2601 Ph: (06) 241 6122 Fax: (06) 241 7998	George Bailey Jennifer Edwards
Museum of Victoria Conservation Department 2nd Floor 27 Francis Street Melbourne VIC 3000 Ph: (03) 628 5923	Michelle Berry Anne Wright
Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery Wellington Street Launceston TAS 7250 Ph: (003) 371 296 Fax: (003) 371 117	Linda Clark Louise James
Queensland Museum Conservation Section PO Box 300 South Brisbane QLD 4101 Ph: (07) 840 7681 Fax: (07) 846 1918	Christine Ianna
Artlab Australia 70 Kintore Avenue Adelaide SA 5000 Ph: (08) 223 1766 Fax: (08) 223 1456	Amber Rowe
University of Auckland, Anthropology Department Auckland New Zealand Ph: 64 9 737999 Ext 8566 Fax: 64 9 33429	Dilys A Johns
University of Canberra, Applied Science NCCHSS PO Box 1 Belconnen ACT 2616 Ph: (06) 252 2632	Benita Johnson
Victoria Archaeological Survey PO Box 262 Albert Park VIC 3206 Ph: (03) 690 5322 Fax: (03) 696 2947	Maggie Brown
WA Maritime Museum Cliff Street Fremantle WA 6160 Ph: (09) 335 8211 Fax: (09) 430 5120	Ian Godfrey Nikki King Smith Ian MacLeod Vicki Richards

Ian Godfrey WA Maritime Museum.

Textiles Specialty Group

We have now had about 30 responses from textile conservators and related people who wish to be part of a textiles group of the AICCM. We have established this group to help increase contact and the flow of information between interested people in Australia.

The group is being co-ordinated from Adelaide but we would welcome input from all members of the group. The co-ordinators see ourselves as exactly that; people to co-ordinate the flow of information. Please send any contributions for the Textiles section of the Newsletter to us at the address below.

Specialist Group Meeting, Textiles CAMA Conference, Adelaide, 1991

The textiles group will meet from 1.30 - 5.00pm on Tuesday 22 October 1991 at Artlab Australia. This will be the first meeting of the group. The main purpose of this meeting will be to meet textile conservators and related people who wish to be a part of a group, to find out what type of work they have been doing and to determine what members wish to gain from the specialty group. The program is outlined below.

1.30 - 2.30	Introduction to the specialty group and its aims and objectives. Mary Jose
2.30 - 3.00	Group members to introduce themselves and their work.
3.00 - 3.30	Tea
3.30 - 4.00	Textile conservation at Artlab Australia. Mary Jose, Kristin Phillips and Debbie Spoeher
4.00 - 5.00	Discussion on what areas members would like the group to focus on and what information they would like to gain from the group.

AICCM Conference Cairns - Discussion on preferred areas of emphasis.

Mary Jose, Artlab Australia.

Objects Conservation Group

If you wish to be included on the membership list, please contact Michelle Berry at the address below.

Identification of Common Conservation Problems

Most museums in Australia have extensive **object collections** made up of historical objects, decorative arts, modern materials, ethnography, technology and operating objects that contain a series of common conservation problems.

By identifying these common problems and co-ordinating our investigative effort we should be able to ensure effective application of our small research budgets, reduce the amount of time wasted in duplicating treatment development, and advance our understanding of materials degradation and conservation.

When the problems of modern and historical materials are mixed with the already identified problems of more 'traditional' materials, stirred with expanding exhibition conservation demands, shrinking budgets and short sighted planning, it is little wonder that conservation problems outweigh the answers. It is also little wonder that it seems that no-one is doing any development work. Any work that is done is lost as it is not circulated or is redone by several museums with the same problem.

We hope that by using the AICCM Objects Group as a clearing house and focal point for our investigative efforts we can reduce the inefficiencies of our present problem solving in objects conservation.

By problems we mean identified areas of concern that can be broken down into a logical series of investigations. The investigations may be purely literature based, experimental or merely technology transfer.

5 Recruitment and Training Needs for Conservators

Survey data strongly suggests that the training and recruitment of conservators in Australia is not adequate to meet the preservation needs of our heritage collections or processes to improve access to collections. This is particularly so for collections containing the following materials: photographs, textiles, books, furniture, electronic media, stone and natural history specimens. Additional data from the art museum sector may result in additions to the above.

Commonwealth and State institutions all indicated that they required access to conservation expertise additional to that currently available in Australia. Many commercial sector operations also indicated that there was a need for a greater range of professional expertise in order to meet the needs of the wide range of collections requiring treatment and other services.

Many respondents highlighted funding as the principal factor inhibiting recruitment. Training in conservation management was also seen as an area where immediate effort is required. To achieve improved access to collections senior and middle management conservators must have improved management skills. The current training provisions, whether at tertiary level or in the work place are not adequate to achieve National/State strategies for conservation management of the nation's moveable heritage collections. A similar view was stated in the consultancy report - "Development of a Training Strategy for the Australian Museum Sector" - by Street Ryan and Associates (pp52, 55).

The Street Ryan report also identified the '...enormous gap beneath tertiary qualified professionals in many museums which is not addressed by any form of structure accredited training' (pp53). This is certainly the case in conservation. The current provision of conservation training at graduate level is inadequate in scope (range of specialisations), output (number of graduates) and level of financial support. A course which provided para-professional training for support personnel in conservation programs would compliment existing human resources. It is understood that a TAFE course for conservation assistants is currently being examined in Sydney. This initiative should be supported.

Street Ryan and Associates claim that the gap beneath qualified professionals reinforces the tendency for museum professionals to 'identify with an occupation group rather than the museum sector'. Considering difficulties in communication and the implied lack of co-ordination between different museum professionals this is an important issue to be more closely examined by the sector.

6 Important Cultural Property at Risk

With reference to the results of the Regional Museum Survey there is a strong argument for identifying regional collections as those at greatest risk. Such collections most often do not have immediate access to conservation services, facilities or funding. In addition few are able to meet acceptable conservation standards for exhibition and storage. This is particularly so in Tasmania and Queensland.

In survey where State and Commonwealth institutions were questioned on the need for additional or new conservation services, the following areas were frequently highlighted: photographic materials, books and binding, textiles, furniture and natural history collections. Photographic materials were by far the most frequently identified area of need.

Few institutions indicated that they could address areas of need in the short term (the next three years) because of lack of finances, trained personnel and lack of facilities.

A significant number of nationally important collections have been surveyed by conservators, however it would appear that the bulk of this activity has occurred in Commonwealth and State funded institutions. The private conservation sector appears to have had little input into this activity. There was a high expectation by all, that most collections would be surveyed within the next three years. It would appear that there is an urgent need for the co-ordination of this activity and the development of national standards for quantifying the condition of collections and problems affecting access.

There was a low response rate to this issue from the managers of natural collections. Considering the general lack of input from conservators in the management of these collections, the Institute is concerned about the state of these collections and the level of risk to specimens with increased levels of use.

7 Preventive conservation

Questions in the survey were specifically directed towards the subject of prevention. Considerable effort is needed to heighten the importance of preventive activity. Indicative of the situation is the fact that only about 50% of Commonwealth and State institutions have a disaster preparedness plan. The Institute considers this as a base line for assessing preventive conservation activity.

About 65% of institutions reported poor storage environments for their collections. The figure is as high as 85% for regional collections.

Most Commonwealth and State institutions have written conservation policies, however, few regional museums do. Without further study of these policy statements it is difficult to comment, definitively, on trends in conservation management, the prospects for the development of preventive conservation activities or the impact of institutional policy on regional, state and national conservation activities. Further work is required in this area.

Great concern must be directed to regional museums. Many have been surveyed but little action has been taken to prevent basic deterioration processes. Many collections are poorly housed with unacceptable storage conditions. Funding, space and lack of staff were common reasons for a lack of preventive action.

The poor response rate from the natural science collection areas can only heighten concern that collection managers in this field may not be aware of the needs for preventive conservation.

It is interesting to note that where smaller collections are serviced by the private sector the emphasis is generally on treatments rather than broader collection management considerations. This situation is understandable on an historical basis considering that this is how conservation activities have developed in State and Commonwealth institutions. Private sector conservators have also commented that many projects appear to be solely driven by finances with little reference or consideration of broader policy issues.

It would appear that there is a need for training of senior staff in museums regarding the role of conservators and preventive conservation in terms of collection management and access to collections. Additionally it seems that greater effort is needed to develop a more appropriate balance between preventive and remedial conservation activity for the long term management of heritage collections.

8 Conclusions and Further Work

This interim report has come some way to identifying priority issues for the conservation of Australia's moveable cultural heritage.

So much has been achieved in the last twenty five years in conservation in Australia. However, the great promise of many outstanding initiatives of this period has not been realised because of lost opportunities, the downturn in the economy and a lack of sustained leadership. What is required are focussed policies and co-ordinated strategies to effectively use existing resources and ensure that new developments contribute to desired outcomes.

The Institute has identified three issues which must receive attention if access to collections is to be improved in Australia. These are: policy and strategic planning; training of conservators (both to develop a management base and increase the number of specialists); and the development of conservation services for heritage collections across the community and especially in regional museums.

Because the authors have not had access to all available survey data at this time, this report cannot be considered as final. The Institute needs further support to continue to refine its advice concerning the management of Australia's moveable heritage resources and resolve what appears to be contradictory evidence (in a few instances) in survey data. The AICCM also looks forward to a continued association with the Heritage Collections Working Group.

Interim report to the CAMA members of the
Heritage Collections Working Group

on

Conservation and Access

**Managing the Moveable Cultural Heritage
Resources of Australia**

AICCM Heritage Collections Working Group
Sub-committee

(Karen Coote - chair, Jeavons Baillie,
Lesley Richards, Ian Cook)

April 1991

Interim report to the CAMA members of the Heritage Collections Working Group on 'Conservation and Access - Managing the Moveable Cultural Heritage Resources of Australia' by AICCM Heritage Collections Working Group Sub-committee (Karen Coote - chair, Jeavons Baillie, Lesley Richards, Ian Cook) April, 1991.

This interim report is being published to inform AICCM members of the current trends in the development of the profession as perceived by the sub-committee. It should not be considered as a definitive paper as a great deal more work needs to be done in assessing the data and contacting senior conservation professionals to assist with the final report.

A report incorporating some of the information published here has been presented to the Heritage Collections Working Group and the Cultural Ministers Council by Margaret Anderson of Monash University. It is hoped that this Monash report will be published by the end of the year.

It is hoped (money pending) that the AICCM committee will meet before October and include in that meeting a session with the CAMA members on the HCWG to determine where we go from here both from AICCM's point of view as well as that of the Heritage Collections Working Group.

Executive Summary

The Australian Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Material (AICCM) Heritage Collections Working Group Sub-committee has examined information from the National survey of Heritage Collections conducted by Monash University. This includes a trial survey report of Tasmanian cultural institutions together with data from the national questionnaire circulated on behalf of the Working Group by the above consultants. The Preservation Section of the questionnaire was sent to libraries, archives and private conservators by the Institute and also forms a vital source of primary data for this interim report.

The Institute has identified three issues which must receive attention if access to collections is to be improved in Australia. These are: policy and strategic planning; training of conservators (both to develop a management base and increase the number of specialists); and the development of conservation services for heritage collections across the community and especially in regional museums.

Preliminary analysis of information reveals the following:

- Conservation activities are fundamental to improved community access to moveable heritage collections.
- There is an urgent requirement for conservation policy at national, state and institutional levels in order to direct resources to areas of greatest need and to activities of greatest economic benefit.
- Generally (excepting Tasmania and Queensland) there are adequate facilities for conservation activities, however, these resources are inappropriately utilised because of lack of policy and strategic planning, limited conservation management at national, state and institutional levels, and insufficient conservators and funding to initiate priority projects.
- An appropriate balance between preventive conservation and remedial conservation needs to be evaluated as a significant issue in the management of heritage collections.
- Training in conservation management and in the conservation of specific materials such as photographs are urgently required in order to strengthen the national-skills-base and focus activity effectively.
- The private conservation sector is growing rapidly in Australia and because it will react to market forces could be used strategically in the conservation management of heritage collections.

1 Recommendations

The AICCM recommends

- 1.1 That the Heritage Collections Working Group direct funds towards additional expenses for a further meeting of the Institute's Heritage Collections Working Group Sub-committee so that it can complete its analysis and reporting on the national and regional surveys.

The quality and quantity of data collected so far is such that it will require two months further activity to assimilate and adequately interpret data. Members of the conservation community will be consulted with reference to training to clarify future requirements.

- 1.2 That the State Government of Tasmania examine the feasibility of creating a fully staffed conservation facility for the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery. This could also act as a centre for regional conservation work in the southern region of Tasmania.
- 1.3 That the State Government of Queensland examine the feasibility of creating a fully staffed conservation facility to meet the needs of regional organisations in Queensland.
- 1.4 That the Heritage Collections Working Group take action at the national level to more fully assess the deficiencies in training and human resource development in the conservation profession.

The conservation training program at the University of Canberra has made a significant contribution to conservation development in Australia. In order to further develop human resources, however, conservation training should be decentralised so that more diverse training and development can take place closer to population centres where conservation activity is developing rapidly.

- 1.5 A representative of the conservation profession become a member of the Arts Training Australia Task Force responsible for training matters following the Street Ryan report.
- 1.6 Action be taken at State and Commonwealth level to create a national internship program for conservation interns. (This will be addressed by The Museum Training Task Force - as per recommendation No. 10 of the Street Ryan Report).

2 Background

There has been very substantial development in Conservation over the last twenty five years in Australia. The period has seen the establishment of more than twenty laboratories across the country, staffed in general by trained conservators.

Most capital expenditure for laboratory building has come from the Commonwealth and State Governments. A small but expanding contribution has come from the private sector. Twenty five years ago there were only an handful of conservators working in Australia. Today there are more than two hundred.

Whilst there has been substantial growth, it has occurred on an adhoc basis and there has not been parallel development in policy, planning and the direction of resources.

The moveable cultural heritage resources of Australia are distributed throughout the community. Whilst important collections are held in the country's major cultural institutions, important heritage material is held in regional centres and in private hands. Conservation activity is occurring in each of the above areas, however, services operate on an adhoc basis and funds are not necessarily being directed to areas of greatest need or national, state or local significance.

In examining the issue of access to heritage collections Griffin and Reeves (members of the Heritage Collection Working Group) have identified with AICCM, four critical factors vital for determining the present position with respect to conservation:

- The extent of Australia's existing conservation resources
- Recruitment and training trends for conservators
- What important cultural property is at greatest risk?
- The extent of preventive action taken to preserve collections and the needs for such action to occur

These factors are examined in the body of this interim report and form the basis for analysis and comment.

3 Methodology

The AICCM has worked with Anderson of the Centre for Australian Studies, Monash University to examine survey information produced by Monash together with a short version of the survey directed to AICCM members working privately or in libraries and archives.

The Institute believes that to gather the most useful information on the conservation management of heritage collections it was necessary to canvas the widest possible spectrum of participants. The AICCM has thus provided an opportunity for the whole of the Australian conservation community to respond to any action it may be taking in working towards preserving the nation's heritage collections.

Not all survey information has been available for the preparation of this interim report because of the lateness of survey returns. Hopefully the Institute will be able to continue its support for the program and revise the report as appropriate as new information comes to hand.

4 The Extent of Australia's Existing Conservation Resources

Australia is generally well serviced with conservation facilities. There are notable exceptions for the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery and the regional museums of Queensland where no collections other than art have access to appropriate conservation facilities and services.

There is a serious problem, however, in the number of professional staff available to work within existing facilities. The issue is widespread but notable examples include the National Museum of Australia and the Museum of Victoria. Most conservation laboratories in Australia are under utilised due to a lack of appropriately qualified staff.

The low response rate to the surveys from Art Museums does not allow the authors to draw conclusions with confidence, however, the position of this sector appears, with respect to human resources, to be better developed than regional and other museums.

With reference to the survey on regional museums access to conservation services is very poor. The physical infrastructures to provide services are often in place as in NSW, VIC, SA and WA, however, there are no or limited funding mechanisms to pay for services. Queensland and Tasmania have very limited access to facilities or staff. There is, however, an overwhelming keenness from regional museums to improve conservation standards.

The poor response from regional art museums does not allow us to comment about the preservation needs of these collections.

There is a poor perception from science museums regarding the role of conservators in the conservation of collections, especially related to natural history collections. This may be attributed in part to the lack of trained conservators in this field and the historical development of natural sciences curatorship. Certainly this matter must be reviewed if collections are to become more accessible in the future.

Private conservation facilities represent a large growing resource in the community and resources are generally of a high quality. The private conservation sector has the potential to be used strategically in the development of a national plan for the conservation of moveable cultural heritage.

Conservation program management, staff structures and communication between museum managers continue to represent significant problems for some conservators. The consequences of this situation seem to be that conservation matters and solutions to heritage issues are not being effectively articulated. As such there are medium to long term cost implications for the heritage sector.

An analysis of data on conservation spending highlighted a significant lack of activity in Tasmania and Queensland.

CALENDAR

Conferences Workshops Seminars Talks



AUSTRALIA

CAMA Conference

22 - 27 October, 1991

The University of Adelaide, North Terrace, Adelaide, South Australia.

The 1991 CAMA Conference has "Access" as its theme. At the same time, the conference will be seeking to develop and promote a national museums agenda of policies for the future.

Participating Conference Organisations

- Council of Australian Museums Associations
- Museums Association of Australia
- Art Museums Association of Australia
- Australian Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Materials
- Council of Australian Museum Directors
- International Council of Museums
- Museums Education Association of Australia
- Australian Federation of Friends of Galleries and Museums
- Australian Heritage Parks Association

Conference Programme

(Only a selection of the Programme is shown here)

Tuesday 22nd October (Pre Conference Day)

- 9.00 - 11.00 AICCM Annual General Meeting, State Library Theatre.
- 12.30 - 5.00 AICCM Objects and SMOCM Group, State Library Theatre
- 1.00 - 5.00 AICCM Textiles Group, Artlab Australia
- 1.00 - 4.00 Corporate Planning Session, Artlab Aust. Convenor: Vicki Humphrey, Ph: (08) 207 7050

Wednesday 23rd October (Day One)

- 10.00 - 10.30 **Official Opening**
- 10.30 - 11.00 **Opening Address** - Dr Des Griffin, President of CAMA

Topic: 'Museums responding to the challenges of making themselves more accessible'
- 11.30 - 12.45 **Keynote Speaker: Claudine Brown**
Topic: 'Cultural Diversity and the Challenges of Access'
- 1.45 - 3.15 *Topic: 'Access to Ideas - are museums a good investment for the Clever Society?'*
Panel Session

Thursday 24th October (Day Two)

- 9.00 - 10.15 *Topic: 'Evaluation'*

Keynote Speaker: Philip Wright
Topic: 'The accessible museum'
- 11.00 - 12.30 *Topic: 'Evaluating Museums in Terms of Access'*
Panel Session

- 12.30 - 2.00 Poster Session
- 2.00 - 3.00 *Topic: 'Collaboration - access to other expertise'*

Issues include: Interdisciplinary projects, work with other art forms, universities and museums.

Friday 25th October (Day Three)

- 9.00 - 10.30 *Topic: 'Policies and museums'*

"Australian Museums and a National Cultural Heritage Strategy"
- the Heritage Collections Working Group
- 11.00 - 12.30 *Topic: 'Access and the real world'*

Issues include: Commercialism/Admission charges
- 12.30 ICOM Annual General Meeting
- 1.00 - 6.00 **Tours**
(A) Freedom of North Terrace Institutions
(B) Port Adelaide - Museums and Heritage Area]
(C) Beechwood/Carrick Hill/ Urrbrae House
(D) Kapunda Museum and Yaldara Winery, Barossa Valley
- 7.30 **Conference Dinner**
Hindley Parkroyal, 65 Hindley Street, Adelaide

Saturday 26th October (Day Four)

- 9.00 - 10.00 **Keynote Speaker: Elspeth Kirig**
Topic: 'Access to resources'
- 10.30 - 12.30 *Topic: 'The Community and its museums'*
- 1.30 - 3.00 *Topic: 'Who makes the decisions? - Power systems and change in museums.'*
Panel session

Sunday 27th October (Day Five)

- 9.00 - 10.30 *Topic: 'Defining valid limits to access'*
Issues include: secret/sacred, protecting the collection, conservation, restricting access for research / publications
- 12.30 - 1.30 **Luncheon (Close of Conference)**

Full programme details and registration forms are available from:

Vicki Humphrey
AICCM / CAMA Conference Representative
Artlab Australia,
70 Kintore Avenue,
Adelaide, SA, 5000 Ph: (08) 223 1766

Registration fees should be paid by **Monday 23rd Sept 1991.**

FEES

Full registration		Day registration	
Members of CAMA		Members of CAMA	
Organisations	\$130	Organisations	\$ 91
Non-members	\$180	Non-members	\$126
Students/Volunteers	\$ 60	Students/Volunteers	\$ 42

Proposed half day seminar by Karen Coote on 'Recent Journeys to the Top End and Alice'

Karen Coote has been working with the Association of Northern Central Australian Aboriginal Artists (ANCAAA) in assisting Aboriginal communities in the care of their artefacts produced for sale, collection and cultural use.

She will give a half day seminar on the results of the Top End and Alice Springs trips discussing in particular:

- Problems found in the communities
- Artist's materials
- Packing and transport
- Insects and mould
- "Keeping the spots on"

The seminar will be held in Adelaide during the CAMA Conference.

Date: Friday 25th October 1991
Time: 1.00 - 6.00 pm
Venue: Artlab Australia, 70 Kintore Ave., Adelaide

Cost: \$40.00

Tea and Coffee will be provided.

If you are interested in attending, could you please provide your name, institution, number of people attending and phone number to Lyn Pinkus, Artlab, before October 8th, 1991.

The Information Environment - Towards 2000
15 - 18 September 1991

8th National Convention of the Records Management Association of Australia.

In recognition of the fact that the information needs of organisations and individuals are changing and evolving, particularly with the rapid development of technology, the Convention seeks to discuss and raise awareness of the emerging trends in the information environment towards 2000, and to prepare information managers for the changing roles that this evolutionary process will bring. The issues discussed will be of relevance to all professionals and practitioners in the information management field because of the merging of traditional roles and professions in this new environment. The Convention proceedings will help them prepare to become essential elements of their organisations' strategic management teams and to satisfy future information needs of their clients.

The venue for the Convention is the Beaufort International Hotel

Fees (after June 1 1991)	
Delegate (member)	\$645
(non-member)	\$715
Accompanying Person	\$335
Day Registration	\$230

Fee includes all sessions, trade exhibition and happy hour, morning and afternoon teas, lunches, welcome cocktail party, international food market, convention dinner, farewell function and satchel.

Enquiries: CONVENTION CATALYSTS
GPO Box 2541
Darwin NT 0801
Ph: (089) 811 875 FAX: (089) 412 815

Courses in the Conservation of Metals, Glass and Ceramics

The Goethe-Institut in conjunction with the Powerhouse will be holding a series of workshops and one lecture by Heinrich Fendel a conservator from the Institut fur Denkmalpflege in Hannover. He has specialised in conservation of metals, glass, ceramics and organic material. Since 1982 he has been the director of their archeological laboratory. At present he is working on a survey on the mechanical treatment of metal surfaces.

16-17th September, 9.30 to 4.30pm. Workshop on metal production and processing, corrosion mechanisms, restoration and preservation measures for a wide range of metals. Special reference will be made to treatment of metal surfaces, including the recognition and treatment of technological details and evidence of use. Cost: \$100, (\$90 Goethe-Institut and Powerhouse members). Venue: K-Mart Learning Centre, Powerhouse Museum, Level 3.

19-20th September, 9.30 - 3.30pm. Workshop on conservation of glass and ceramics. Production and technology, cleaning, preservation and reconstruction techniques will be considered with reference to examples. Cost: \$100, (\$90 Goethe-Institut and Powerhouse members). Venue: K-Mart Learning Centre, Powerhouse Museum, Level 3.

19th September, 4.00 - 6.00pm. The Sudan Project 1986 and 1988. Lecture on Heinrich Fendel's involvement in this archeological project. Cost \$5 and free for workshop participants. Venue: Target Theatre, Powerhouse Museum, Level 2.

Bookings for the workshop and lecture are essential, please phone (02) 217 0100. The workshops and lecture will be presented in German with an English translator.

A Recent Working Visit to the National Diet Library, Japan, Dr. Jan Lyall

Reporting on a recent UK Conference on Packing
Andrew Durham

25 September 1991 AICCM ACT Division Meeting
Australian National Gallery Lecture Theatre

Doing Time - Museums Education and Accountability
30 Sept - 4 Oct 1991, University of Sydney, Womens College
Organised by the Museum Education Association of Australia, this conference will "explore the areas of program and exhibition evaluation; formal and informal learning; cultural tourism; sponsorship and marketing".

Conference runs for 4 1/2 days including museum visits, morning sessions and afternoon parallel sessions. Each day has a theme - these are Formal and Informal Learning, Programming for all your Audiences, Evaluation and Marketing and sponsorship.

Fees:	Members	\$175.00
	Non-Members	\$200.00
	Students	\$100.00

Inquiries to: Capital Conferences Pty Ltd
PO Box E345
Queen Victoria Terrace
ACT 2600
Ph: (06) 285 2048
Fax: (06) 285 2086

Interaction: Art Museums, Public Galleries and The Community

14-18 October 1991, hosted by the Art Gallery of Western Australia. The conference runs for 5 days with each day devoted to a specific topic. These are: Why do we Collect, Revaluing the Curator, The Asian and Pacific Experience, Visitors Who Count and Communities in Collaboration.

Further information: Rennie Lee Steere, Conference Co-ordinator, Art Gallery of WA, Perth Cultural Centre, Perth, WA 6000.
Ph: (09) 328 7233 Fax: (09) 328 6353.

Conservation of Oriental Carpets

17 October 1991, Winsor, Victoria.
Behruz Aligorgi will talk on this topic.
For information contact AICCM Victorian Division, GPO Box 2046S, Melbourne 3001, or Secretary, Alison Wain Ph: (03) 628 5924

Care of Contemporary Aboriginal Artifacts
December 4 1991

Karen Coote has been working with ANCAAA (Association of Northern Central Australian Aboriginal Artists) in assisting Aboriginal communities in the care of their artefacts produced for sale, collections and cultural use. By December she will have visited Arnhem Land, Alice Springs and the Kimberly district to assess some of the problems and give seminars to the Arts and Crafts Advisers.

A one day seminar will be given on the results of these trips followed by a one day workshop on the mounting of artefacts, flake adhesion and other practical work related to Aboriginal mediums.

This is a two day seminar/workshop to be held in the Conservation Laboratory, Australian Museum, Sydney.
The cost is \$75 per day. For more information contact Karen Coote on (02) 339 8207.

Cultural Heritage Conservation - The Role of Government and the Individual

20-22 March 1992, Fremantle, WA.

Organised by Australia ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) and City of Fremantle in conjunction with the Heritage Council of Western Australia.

For further information contact: City Architect, City of Fremantle, PO Box 807, Fremantle, WA 6160.

The Articulate Surface: Dialogues on Paintings between Conservators, Curators and Art Historians.

1-3 May 1992, Humanities Research Centre, Australian National University and the Australian National Gallery, Canberra.

Please note change of date.

For further details contact:

Jacqueline Macnaughtan, Conservation, ANG Ph:(06) 271 2463
Sue-Anne Wallace, Education, ANG Ph: (06) 271 2522; Fax: (06) 271 2529
Australian National Gallery
GPO Box 1150 Canberra ACT 2601

A provisional conference program and registration form will be available from the HRC from September 1991. For information contact the Secretary, Ph: (06) 249 4786; Fax: (06) 248 0054 or write to: Humanities Research Centre, Australian National University, GPO Box 4 Canberra ACT 2601

AICCM 1992 Conference

21 - 23 September 1992 Cairns QLD

Further Info: Benita Johnson, Centre Cultural Heritage Science Studies, University of Canberra Ph: (06) 252 2369

Call For Papers

Materials Research Society Spring Meeting

April 27 - May 2 1992, San Francisco, California

Materials issues in Art and Archaeology III

Co-sponsored by the Getty Conservation Institute and the Conservation Analytical Laboratory, Smithsonian Institution.

This symposium will provide a multidisciplinary forum reporting and interpreting new developments in technical studies of material culture and in the conservation science required to preserve that heritage. In order to promote a dialogue among empiricists who examine the materials science and cognitive and cultural behaviour underlying art, archaeology and technology, those who develop the materials science and technology underlying modern artifacts and those who attempt to elucidate the underlying mechanisms of deterioration and means of stabilization, we solicit contributions in the following areas:

The Role of Technology In Material Culture; Conservation Science; Characterization Through Compositional and Structural Analysis; and the Mechanical and Physical Properties of Materials and/or Artifacts.

Abstracts in MRS format are due October 1, 1991

Submit abstract to:

Materials Research Society

ATTN: Abstract Enclosed

9800 McKnight Road

Pittsburgh, PA 15237

USA

(412) 367 - 3003



INTERNATIONAL

Rock Art: Site Protection and Management

24 - 29 February 1992

The course is designed for site managers, cultural resource managers and archaeologists and will include topics such as; Principles of Heritage Management, assessing the significance of rock art sites, site interpretation, designing management plans, visitor management and the role of Conservation.

There is no fee for the course, but travel, accommodation and day to day expenses must be met by the participants. The course will be held at the Getty Conservation Institute Marina del Rey, California.

Deadline for applications 30 September 1991.

Further Info: The Training Program, The Getty Conservation Institute, 4503 Glencoe Avenue, Marina del Rey, California, 90292 - 6537 Ph: (213) 822 2299 Fax: (213) 812 9409

Restoration 91

14 - 18 October 1991 Business Design Centre, London

Conservation of leather in transport collections; Gilding and surface decoration; Storage disasters. A whole day is devoted to each topic with approx. six speakers on each day.

Fees are £140.00 for UKIC members, £180.00 non-members or £40.00/day. Further Info: UKIC Office, 37 Upper Addison Gardens, London W14 8AJ.

The Imperfect Image: Photographs - Their Past, Present and Future

1 - 4 April 1992 Manchester Institute of Science and Technology.

Areas to be covered include photographic history, collection management, conservation and technology. Papers are invited.

Further Info: Angela Moor, Centre for Photographic Conservation, 233 Stanstead Rd, London SE23 1HU Ph: 081 3141940

Conference on Conservation of Photographs, Drawings, Manuscripts, and Printed Papers

30 Sept - 3 Oct, Paris, France

Contact: ARSAG, 36 Rue Geoffroy Saint Hilaire, 75005 Paris France; 33 1 45 87 06 12

Preventive Conservation for Geological Collections

6 - 8 October 1991, Ontario, Canada

Contact: Director, Art Conservation Department, Queens University, Kingston, Ontario, K7L3N5, Canada

International Conference on Archaeometrical Research

7 - 11 October, 1991, Veszprem, Hongrie

Contact: Ms Kalalin Siman, Archaeological Institute, Hungarian Academy of Science, 1250 Budapest H14, Hongrie

European Workshop: Archaeometric Research and Archaeological Studies on Ancient Ceramics

11 - 15 October, 1991, Rome, Italy

Contact: European Workshop Archaeometric Research and Archaeological Studies on Ancient Ceramics, Dipartimento di Scienze della Terra, Sez. Mineralogia e Cristallografia, Universita degli Studi di Roma 'La Sapienza', Piazzale Aldo Moro 5, 00185 Rome, Italy; Fax: (06) 445 4729

International Symposium on Tourist Architecture of the Mediterranean

13 - 20 October 1991, Yildiz, Turkey

Contact: Secretariat of the International Symposium on Tourist Architecture of the Mediterranean, Yildiz University, Faculty of Architecture, Dean's Office, Yildiz, 807 50 Istanbul, Turkey

Conservation of Leather in Transport Collections

15 October 1991, UK

Contact: Christopher Calnan, The Leather Conservation Centre, 34 Guildhall Rd., Northampton, NN1 1EW, UK

45th National Preservation Conference: Historic Preservation, the Next 25 years

16 - 20 October, 1991, San Francisco, California, USA

Contact: The National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1785 Massachusetts Avenue, NW Washington DC 20036 USA

Friends of the Dard Hunter Paper Museum Annual Meeting

16 - 20 October 1991, Grants Pass, OR.
Contact: Douglas Stone, Meeting Co-ordinator, 2920 S Wentworth Av., Milwaukee, WI 53207; (414) 744 6333; or Cathy Baker, Executive Secretary, 77 Admiral Rd, Buffalo, NY 14216; (716) 838 4686

The identification of Synthetic Dyes on Historic Textiles and the Preparation of Standard Dyeings, C205

21 - 25 October, 1991, Washington DC USA
Contact: Francine Hall, Training Secretary, CAL, MSC, Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC 20560 USA

Advanced Dye Identifications C206

28 Oct - 1 Nov 1991, Washington DC USA
Contact: Francine Hall, Training Secretary, CAL, MSC, Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC 20560 USA

Conservation Environments for Museums and Libraries

29 October 1991, New York, NY
William P Lull will lecture on establishing safe conservation environments for preservation of collections.
Contact: The Real Estate Institute, New York University, 11 West 42nd Street, New York, NY 10036; (212) 790 1300

Setting Up a Conservation Environment Monitoring Program

30 October, 1991, New York, NY
William P Lull will lecture on how to set up a meaningful monitoring program for conservation environments.
Contact: The Real Estate Institute, New York University, 11 West 42nd Street, New York, NY 10036; (212) 790 1300

Gilding and Surface Decoration - a practical approach

November 1991, London UK
Contact: Sophie Budden, 29 Victoria House, South Lambeth Road, Vauxhall, London SW8 1QT Ph: (071) 820 1101

Conservation of Giltwood, C201

4 - 7 November 1991, Washington DC USA
Contact: Francine Hall, Training Secretary, CAL, MSC, Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC 20560 USA

Display Materials, C207

12 - 15 November, 1991, Washington DC USA
Contact: Francine Hall, Training Secretary, CAL, MSC, Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC 20560 USA

The Role of Chemistry in Archaeology

15 - 18 November Hyderabad, India
Contact: The Director, The Birla Institute of Scientific Research, Asmanagadh, Malakpet, Hyderabad 500 036 India

Leather for Conservators, C209

19 - 21 November
Contact: Francine Hall, Training Secretary, CAL, MSC, Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC 20560 USA

Second International Symposium for the Conservation of Monuments in the Mediterranean Basin

19 - 21 November, 1991, Geneva Switzerland
Contact: Ms Danielle Decrouez, Museum d'Histoire Naturelle, Route de Malagnou, 1211 Geneva 6, Switzerland

Symposium: Ancient Commerce without Archaeological Traces

Autumn 1991, Ravello, Italy
Contact: European University Centre for Cultural Heritage, Villa Rufolo, 84010, Ravello, Italy

Ancient and Historic Metals

21 - 23 November 1991, California USA
Contact: Brian Considine, Conservator of Decorative Arts and Sculpture, J Paul Getty Museum, PO Box 2112 Santa Monica, CA 90496 Ph: (213) 459 7611

The Suction Table for Textiles and Paintings, C208

2 - 6 December, 1991
Contact: Francine Hall, Training Secretary, CAL, MSC, Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC 20560 USA

Upholstery Conservation, C210

9 - 13 December 1991
Contact: Francine Hall, Training Secretary, CAL, MSC, Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC 20560 USA

Exhibition, Storage and Handling of Furniture, C202

10 - 13 February, 1992
Contact: Francine Hall, Training Secretary, CAL, MSC, Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC 20560 USA

Archaeometry '92

23 - 27 March 1992, Los Angeles, CA USA
Contact: Dr. P Meyers, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, 5800 Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles, CA USA

The Institute of Paper Conservation Third Conference

1 - 4 April 1992, University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, UK
Contact: Conference Administrator, Millstream Europe Ltd, South Harting, Petersfield, Hampshire, 9031 5LF, UK Fax 44 730 825 763

Master Art - 4th Exhibition - The Work of Art and Heritage Restoration and Preservation Show

2 - 6 April, 1992, Paris, France
"Master Art" is a unique exhibition in France where craftsmen who restore works of art, old buildings, gardens, special sites, and our cultural heritage in general come to meet in order to exchange ideas, pass on their know-how and share their passion with the visitors.

"Master Art" is also a place to discover ancient methods and future techniques.

Contact: Florence Gitton (Exhibition Co-Manager) or Eric Watiez (Exhibition Manager), Comite des Expositions de Paris, 55, quai Alphonse Le Gallo - BP 317 92107 BOULOGNE CEDEX - FRANCE Fax: (1) 49 09 61 58

Interamerican Colloquium for the Analysis of Recent Restorations on the American Continent

13 - 18 April, 1992, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
Contact: Comite Dominicans del ICOMOS Calle Luperon, 54, Santo Domingo, Republica Dominicana

International Symposium on the Preservation and Conservation of Natural History Collections

10 - 15 May, 1992, Madrid, Spain
Contact: Julio Gisbert or Fernando Palacios, Museo Nacional de ciencias Naturales, Jos Gutierrez Abascal, 2, 28006, Madrid, Spain Fax: 564 5078

The International Congress on Deterioration and Conservation of Stone

15 - 18 June, 1992, Lisbon, Portugal
Contact: Prof. J Delgado Rodrigues, LNEC-AV Brasil, 101, 1799 LISBOA CODEX Portugal, Fax: 351 1 89 76 CO; Telex:16760 LNECP

Conservation of the Iberian and Latin American Cultural Heritage

8 - 13 September 1992, Madrid, Spain
Contact: Ms Perry Smith, IIC, 6 Buckingham Street, London, WC2N 6BA, UK Fax: 71 976 1564

3rd International Conference on Nondestructive Testing, Microanalytical Methods and Environment Evaluation for the Study of Conservation of Works of Art

Autumn 1992, Brescia, Italy
Contact: Associazione Italiana Prove Non Distruttive, via Forestis, 25125 Brescia, Italy

These are some examples;

How can we conserve rubber?

- How can we store foam rubber?
- Will Ageless help?
- Should we just replace it?
- What are the ethical problems?

How should engines be inhibited for long term exhibition?

- Should they be exercised?
- How often should they be re-inhibited?
- How can they be monitored?

What is the optimum wood adhesive?

- Is reversibility a question?
- If it is, should PVA be replaced by Acrylic emulsion?
- Are Acrylic emulsions effective wood adhesives?

How is the environmental corrosivity of a museum measured?

How should this knowledge effect our treatments?

Can Ethnographic and Textiles techniques be successfully applied to large composite structures such as fabric aircraft?

How should we approach the conservation of painted objects?

- How should we approach the conservation of painted metals?
- Does the adhesion of cellulose acetate to metal differ from cellulose butyrate?
- What happens, with time, on an aluminium surface?

How do we identify and treat dangerous substances in museum objects?

- Asbestos
- PCB's
- Explosives
- DDT
- Cyanide
- Arsenic
- Vacuum's
- Hi pressure cylinders

Is there a cheap method of removing corrosive gases from museum environments?

Passive Airconditioning?

These are a few problems identified during a short discussion at the Museum of Victoria. As you can see, problems abound and there seems to be a dearth of appropriate and practical answers. What other ideas do we have if we sit down and think about the problems seriously?

First we would like you to take the form that has been put in the Newsletter and photocopy it. Fill out one form for each of your objects conservation problems. Please fill out all of the form and include projects that you are working on currently.

We will then list the perceived problems, list those being actively worked on and the people working on the problem, and publish it in the AICCM Newsletter.

We will then give the listing to the University of Canberra as an initial guide for Undergraduate Major projects, Masters and PhD. theses.

Expressions of interest will be sought from other interested educational institutions who would be interested in taking on projects as part of their Masters and PhD. programmes, and encourage support from collecting institutions though not necessarily in the form of 'funding'.

Funding and staff for the top projects will be sought through grants, bullying, persuasion and hard work. We hope this will shake up the 'no-one ever does any research' blues.

Just fill out those problem sheets NOW!!

David Hallam
Metals conservator
Australian War Memorial

Michelle Berry
Objects conservator
Museum of Victoria

**Specialist Group Meeting, Objects and SMOCM
CAMA Conference, Adelaide, 1991**

A joint meeting of the Objects Conservation Group and the Sculpture, Monuments and Outdoor Cultural Material Group (SMOCM) will be held on the 22 October 1991 in Adelaide at the State Library theatre, 68, Kintore Avenue, following the AICCM AGM.

PROGRAM

12.30 - 3.00 pm Prepared Talks:

- Movement of the Anthropology Collection, including making of specialised mounts at the Australian Museum, Sydney.
- Michael Kelly and Graham Scott
- Activities of SMOCM
- Jennifer Dickens and Donna Midwinter
- Treatment of a Rodin Sculpture with bronze disease, Western Australian Art Gallery. (proposed)
- John Olive
- Treatment of a large polychrome sculpture
- Amber Rowe
- Health hazards in industrial collections
- Alison Wain
- Treatment of a Ceramic Tile by Arthur Boyd, Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery (proposed)
- Louise James

This will be followed by meetings of the special interest groups to discuss aims, objectives and activities planned for the coming year. The groups will meet consecutively to enable members to attend both meetings.

3.00 - 4.00 pm Objects

4.00 - 5.00 pm SMOCM

Donna Midwinter
Art Gallery of NSW
SMOCM

Michelle Berry
Museum of Victoria
Objects Conservation Group

AICCM Specialty Group Co-ordinators

Archival Paper Action Committee (APAC)	Murray Millar, Australian War Memorial, GPO Box 345, Canberra ACT 2601 Ph: (06) 243 4209.
Conservation Science	David Tilbrooke, ARTLAB, 70 Kintore Ave, Adelaide Ph: (08) 223 1766
Objects	Michelle Berry, Museum of Victoria, Conservation Dept., 2nd Floor, 27 Francis St Melbourne, VIC 3000 Ph: (03) 628 5923
Paintings	Allan Byrne, NCCHSS, University of Canberra, PO Box 1, Belconnen ACT 2616
PHOTON	Mark Nizette, National Film and Sound Archives, GPO Box 2002, Canberra ACT 2601
SMOCM	Sculpture, Monuments and Outdoor Cultural Material, Donna Midwinter, c/- Art Gallery of NSW, Art Gallery Road, The Domain, Sydney NSW 2000
Stained Glass	David Beavis, 18 Main Street, Grenfell NSW 2810
Textiles	Mary Jose, Kristin Phillips, Debbie Spoehr, ARTLAB, 70 Kintore Ave, Adelaide, SA 5000 Ph: (08) 223 1766 Fax: (08) 223 1456
Wet Organics	Ian Godfrey, WA Maritime Museum, Cliff Street, Fremantle WA 6160 Ph: (09) 335 8211 Fax: (09) 430 5120



TECHNICAL NOTES

THE USE OF PLASTIC PRODUCTS A CAUTIONARY NOTE

Recently in Australia, there has been a proliferation in the use of a variety of plastic materials. Polyester film is probably the best known of these, but a variety of other plastics are being used for bags and boxes. The use of polypropylene for preservation applications is not new. It has been used as covers for 'archival' storage albums for many years, both in Australian and overseas. One pioneering 'plastic box' was the Australian Bicentennial Historic Records Search polypropylene wallet, produced by Conservation Resources International. The use of polypropylene for archival containers is increasing rapidly. One Australian company is developing an ever increasing range of boxes to suit a variety of archival storage needs. The National Library of Australia has developed its own custom designed polypropylene storage boxes for serial and newspaper collections. These will be used instead of traditional binding for a large proportion of its general collections.

These plastic materials appear to be ideal for preservation purposes. They are light, strong, waterproof and longlasting. Their relatively low cost adds to their attraction. So why the caution about their wider use?

There are two factors to be considered:

- the inertness, or lack thereof, of the plastic
- suggested accelerated degradation of the contents

Inertness?

The three plastics most commonly used for archival storage are polyethylene, and the polyolefins, polypropylene and polyethylene. The characteristic of 'inertness' has always been very important in preservation applications and the inertness of polyester films has long been acknowledged. It should be noted, however, that the term 'polyester' does not define one unique material, but is the generic name for a range of polymers belonging to the chemical class of compounds called esters. They have similar, but not identical, chemical compositions. The polyester most widely used for preservation purposes is polyethylene terephthalate, sold under a variety of trade names including 'Mylar', 'Melinex' and 'Terylene'.

When 'polypropylene' or 'polyethylene' is specified, it might be assumed that the chemical composition is determined. Theoretically at least, these polymers are produced from the simple monomers propylene and ethylene, which in turn contain only the elements carbon and hydrogen. Practically, however, this is not so. In order to alter the basic physical characteristics of the polymer - flexibility, light stability, softness, hardness, colour, etc - a range of additives is employed. A quick look at a book such as 'Plastic Additives', R Gächter & H Müller (eds), Hanser Publications, Munich, 1987 ISBN 3-446-15072-2, will alert the thinking conservator to some of the possibilities. Some of these types of additives are just the ones - plasticisers, stabilisers, lubricants etc, that conservators have spent many years avoiding in plastic materials such as PVC.

Examples of supposedly archival plastics, but with suspect properties are numerous. Within the National Library, polypropylene sheet from the same supplier has varied from batch to batch (one delivery had such a greasy surface that you could draw on it with your fingers); some polyethylene bags exposed to light have sometimes turned a delicate pale yellow shade; some polyolefin shrinkwrapping film disintegrated after a short period of accelerated aging, and some batches of polypropylene boxes as delivered have had a very strong odour, indicating the presence of volatile additives.

Accelerated aging of contents?

To compound the dilemma, research from the Library of Congress (see, for example, Abbey Newsletter, 1986, Vol 10/1, p1, and Vol 10/2, p20) suggests that the use of plastics, including polyester as packaging may accelerate degradation of the contents. These results are based on accelerated aging experiments, and as with all such tests there is some concern that the results can not always be directly related to normal aging conditions. The National Library of Australia in association with the National Archives in the USA is,

however, hoping to conduct experiments that will provide further information on this controversial issue.

Reports from an International Seminar on Research in Preservation and Conservation for Libraries and Library Associations (IFLA), the International Council of Archives (ICA) and Columbia University, held at Arden House, Columbia University from 25-29 May 1991, indicate that researchers in the United States are, in fact, taking the concept of accelerated aging of the contents of packaged material one step further. They are suggesting that the inner contents of **any** package will degrade faster than the outer layers, caused by the build up of degradation products which cannot escape to the outside environment. This would even apply to a bound book, with the inner pages of the book degrading more quickly than the outer pages. This idea perhaps needs to be treated with a certain amount of scepticism, because it does not appear to be borne out by experience. In a joint study with CSIRO, the National Library is conducting experiments on 19th century materials to test this theory.

What can we do?

So what is the conservator to do? Are **any** plastics safe to use for archival purposes? Should we only use archival paper and board, and leave plastics for non-archival applications?

It would be helpful if there was a simple and definitive answer to these questions. At this stage, the safest recommendation is to proceed with caution. One could suggest that plastic box or bag manufacturers be requested to provide a full technical specification of materials, but experience has shown that converters of plastic materials often do not have the expertise to provide meaningful information, or else may be unwilling to provide it for proprietary reasons. One could suggest that all plastics be carefully analysed before use, but that is not always practical. One could suggest that plastics be only used for collections not intended for permanent retention, and one should try to ensure that materials stored in plastic enclosures are housed under controlled and stable environmental conditions with relatively low temperature and relative humidity.

Like many preservation issues, the final decision must rest with the curators and guardians of collections, based on the best available knowledge and weighing up the advantages and disadvantages of any treatment. Further research needs to be undertaken to clarify the complex issues involved.

In the meantime, at the National Library, shrinkwrapping will continue to be used for low use material and polypropylene boxes will be used for unbound serial collections. Single sheet items will be encapsulated in polyester sheet material where appropriate, including where possible an added sheet of alkaline paper as recommended by Library of Congress. In addition to closely monitoring overseas research, the Library will continue its own research program and publish results as soon as practical.

Wendy Smith
Preservation Services
National Library of Australia
July 1991

MAGNETIC 'WEIGHTS'

Faced recently with the problem of re-adhering flaking paint on ferrous metal car bodies, I found that small magnets were an excellent alternative to weights, especially on vertical surfaces where weights were impractical. A small amount of adhesive (in this case 20% Paraloid B72 in acetone) was introduced beneath the paint flake, which was then covered with a piece of Mylar. Small flat magnets were then placed over the Mylar. After three to four hours the magnets and Mylar could be lifted off the surface, leaving the paint flake securely adhered in place. The magnets had enough strength to counteract any 'spring' in the paint flake but did not leave any impression in the paint surface.

Though I have not experimented any further, this method could be extended to any other adhesion problems where the underlying metal is magnetic, or where magnetism could be induced. For example if iron sheet could be secured under or behind a thin surface requiring treatment, it may be possible to use magnetism to clamp two now magnetic substances together.

Alison Wain
Conservator, Museum of Victoria

Addendum

In the last issue of the Newsletter, an article titled 'Asbestos in Museum Collections' was included in the Technical Notes. Unfortunately, the final footnote and the authors name were omitted. Here is the information to complete the picture:

2. Guide to the Control of Asbestos Hazards in Buildings and Structures Part 1. of Code of Practice and Guidance Note: Asbestos. Worksafe Australia, 1988.

Alison Wain, Museum of Victoria

← INFORMATION EXCHANGE →

Textile Exhibitions

The Dame Nancy Butterfield Embroidery Prize

Dame Nancy Butterfield has established a permanent Trust Fund to endow a prize for embroidery. The aim is to encourage people and to promote originality and good craftsmanship in the art of embroidery. An exhibition of the work submitted for judging will be opened at Carrickhill, Adelaide, by His Excellency The Governor General of Australia. The exhibition will be open to the public from August 31 to November 3, 1991.

Greek Handicraft Traditions

The Migration Museum, Adelaide, is presenting an exhibition of Greek women's handicrafts. The exhibition covers a wide range of varying textiles which will represent the broad historical and geographical diversity. The exhibition opens on August 4 and closes on October 27.



PUBLICATIONS

WANTED - Someone who can read Italian!

We have received a small publication entitled **Materiali E Struttore Problemi a Conservazione**. We have been asked to review it and to send two copies of the review to the originating institution - "L'ERMA" di Bretschneider. The papers have short English summaries at the back, but to do the publication justice, it needs to be read through completely. Please contact the Editorial Committee if you can help.

1991 AICCM / ICOMOS Conference

The published proceedings from this conference are at last available! Trish Stokes, VCCCM, is handling distribution, and it is anticipated copies will be forwarded within Victoria prior to the end of June, and to delegates from other States, some time in July.

ICOM Committee for Conservation Preprints

Preprints of the 9th Triennial Meeting of the ICOM Committee for Conservation (Dresden 1990) are now available. Two soft cover volumes containing 160 articles (136 in English, 24 in French) on scientific examining theory and history of restoration, care of works of art in transit, mural paintings and mosaics.

Dresden Preprints are US \$100 for two volumes and are available from:

ICOM Maison de l'Unesco, 1 rue Miollis, 75732, Paris, Cedex 15, France

ICROM, 13 Via di San Michele, 00153, Rome Italy

J Paul Getty Book Distribution Centre, PO Box 2112, Sant Monica, CA 90407-2112 USA

AICCM Information Sheets

AICCM's Information Sheet No. 2 has just been published. Entitled "Thermal Fax Paper", it is a useful summary for general distribution of the properties of thermal fax paper and the problems which result from its instability. Written by Thea Exley and based on research by

Australian Archives (ACT), its printing has been generously sponsored by the Queensland Division of AICCM.

Information Sheet No. 1 on "Guidelines for Commissioning Conservation Treatment for Cultural Objects" is still in print.

Both are printed on A4 card, and are available for 50c each or \$4 for 10 plus packing and postage from the Publications Officer, Julian Bickersteth, International Conservation Services, 53 Victoria Avenue, Chatswood. Tel: (02) 417 3311, Fax: (02) 417 3102.

AICCM Bulletin

AICCM Bulletin Vol 16, No's 1 & 2, 3 & 4 are now available. These volumes contain the conference proceedings from the 1990 AICCM conference in Launceston, Tasmania.

Directory of Conservation Research in the United Kingdom, published by The Conservation Unit, Museums and Galleries Commission, February 1991. The information was compiled by the Conservation Research Policy Group initially in 1989, and then revised in 1990.

The research listed is mainly on conservation methods and materials but excludes work on historical or archaeological studies and archaeometric study. It is stated that this list is not comprehensive, and is changing constantly, but the list of research topics is vast. This publication is a must for anyone doing research in Australia and wanting to contact other conservators. Institutions surveyed start at the British Museum through the alphabet to York Archaeological trust.

This is a 27 page document so it is impossible to list all the research topics mentioned, but there really is 'something for everyone'. I recommend every institution in Australia requests a copy of this information, so that we don't re-invent the wheel!

This publication is available from:

The Conservation Unit Museums and Galleries Commission, 16 Queen Anne's Gate, London, SW1H9AA.

Resist Dyed Textiles from Auseir AlQadim by Gillian Vogelsang-Eastwood.

A study of 13th and 14th century archaeological textiles, probably Indian in origin, excavated at an Islamic trading port in Egypt. Limited edition in English published by the Association pour l'Etude et la Documentation des Textiles d'Asie. AEDTA, (60 bis, Avenue de Breteuil, 75007, Paris), 1990. Paperback, 119 pages, 70 colour illustrations, 9 colour enlargements, 450FF/US\$70.00

Tablet-Weaving by Egon Hansen.

An account of the history and technical development of tablet weaving together with patterns based on archaeological examples suitable for weaving reproductions. The author collaborated with the Institute of Pre-Historic Archaeology, University of Arhus, Denmark. Forlaget Hovedland (Stenvej 19, 8270 Hojbjerg, Denmark), 1990. Hardback, colour and b&w illustrations.

Conservation of Furnishing Textiles. Proceedings of an SSCR/UKIC Conference, Glasgow, 1990 ed Ann French.

This publication includes eleven of the twelve papers given at the conference. SSCR, 1991. Paperback, 120 pages, 39 b&w illustrations and 9 line drawings. £10.00 to SSCR members, £12.00 plus £1.00 p&p to non-SSCR members. Order from Paul Wilthew, West Hatch, By Gifford, Haddington, East Lothian EH144JN, Scotland.

Guides to Practice in Corrosion Control: Sources of Corrosion Information; Corrosion of Metals by Wood; Stress Corrosion; Temporary Protection; Corrosion in Agriculture; free, from: National Corrosion Service, National Physical Laboratory, Teddington, Middlesex, TW110LW,

The following publications are available from Nicole Leroy, B.P. 149, 84008 Avignon Cedex:

Protection contre les dégradations et dégradation du fait de l'homme, Actes 85, 126.30F

Les Risques Naturels, Actes 86, 201.20F

Diffusion Culturelle et exploitation touristique, Actes 87, 233.30F.

Parimoine et Modernite, Actes 88, 262.10F

A Directory of Specialist Crafts for Architects and Builders by R J Smith, £16.95, published by Robert Hale (distributed by Tower Book Services Ltd.).

Caring for Museum Collections: an introduction to preventive conservation video and information pack, £23.00 + £2.10p&p, from Scottish Museums Council, County House, 20/22 Torphichen St, Edinburgh, EH38JB.

Comprehensive New Guide to Grants for Heritage, 200pp, £15.95, from The Museum Development Company, Premier Suites, Exchange House, 494 Midsummer Blvd, Milton Keynes MK92EA

Alabaster, John Young, Derbyshire Museum Service, £6.00, ISBN 090676318X.

The following publications are available from the Building Research Advisory Service, Building Research Station, Garston, Watford, WD27JR:

Decay and Conservation of Stone Masonry, Building Research Establishment Digest 177.

Cleaning External Surfaces of Buildings, Building Research Establishment Digest 280.

Mrs Coade's Stone, Alison Kelly, Self Publishing Association Ltd, £48.00.

The Effects of Acid Deposition on Buildings and Building Materials in the UK, DoE Buildings Effects Review Group. HMSO, £11.25.

The Graduate Conservator in Employment: Expectations and Realities, proceedings of the interim Meeting of the Working Group on Training in Conservation and Restoration of ICOM Committee for Conservation, Amsterdam and Leiden, 31 Aug - 1 Sept, 1989, Opleiding Restauratoren, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Conference Proceedings: "Shared Responsibility; Proceedings of a Seminar for Curators and Conservators".

Comprises papers from artists, curators, conservators, scientists, administrators and other professionals. 23 pages in both English and French. Available for Canadian\$30 from National Gallery of Canada Bookstore; 380 Sussex Drive, PO Box 427, Station A, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1N9N4. Attention Daniel Pritchard. Cheque or money order made payable to 'Receiver-General for Canada'.

Light Microscopy Theory Booklet

Leica Buffalo has released a 25 page booklet on "The Theory of the Microscope" by James Benford, which provides a good introduction and includes sections on definitions and aberrations, objectives and eyepieces, illumination and condensers, as well as a brief discussion on darkfield, interference and phase contrast.

Copies are available free on request from Leica Instruments Pty Ltd, 45 Epping Road, North Ryde, NSW, 2113.

1991 AIC Abstracts - The Latest Word in Conservation
Abstracts of nearly 100 papers presented at the AIC 19th Annual Meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico, June 3-8, 1991. Featuring abstracts from presentations given at a special session on sacred objects. Also included: Wooden Artifacts, Architecture, Objects, Book and Paper, Paintings, and Textiles Specialty Group sessions, the Conservators in Private Practice and Poster sessions, and more. Topics range from conserving the art of Thomas Eakins to environmental controls for collections in historic buildings. 86 pages. AIC Members - \$8.00; Non-members - \$12.00.

1992 AIC Directory - The Definitive Resource Guide
Publication Date - August 1991. A comprehensive listing of AIC members organized by name, specialty and geographic region, the **Directory** also includes information on the AIC/FAIC, the **Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice**, and other conservation-related organizations and funding agencies. 220 pages. A benefit of membership in the AIC, the **Directory** is available to non-members for \$38.

AIC Ordering Information

Publications may be ordered from: AIC, 1400 16th Street, NW, Suite 340, Washington, DC 20036. Orders must be prepaid by check or money-order made out to AIC. Include \$3.00 postage and handling for the first Abstracts (\$5.00 for *Directory*) and \$1.00 for each additional book. Foreign orders must be paid in US dollars drawn on US banks. **Canada and Mexico** orders add \$5.00 for the first book and \$1.00 for each additional book. **All other countries** add \$10.00 for first book and \$2.00 for each additional book.

UKIC Spring Sale

Modern Art: the restoration and techniques of modern paper and paints

ISBN 1 87 1656 04 4 Published by UKIC 36pp, 1989. Previous price: £6.50 Reduction due to over print by printers. New price £5.00.

Surplus copies of *Conservation News* to be sold off due to lack of storage space. £1.00 (\$2.00) each.

Conservation News 11 March 1980. Topics incl: Freeze drying; A marker trial; Acrylic resin consolidant for polychromed stone; Waxoyl - a surface treatment for ironwork.

Conservation News 12 July 1980. Topics incl: The Mary Rose; Silver recovery from photographic waste; Good news for abrasive users; The consolidative reduction of lead.

Conservation News 22 November 1983. Topics incl: Tarnprufe impregnated cloth for protection of silver from tarnishing; Solid state memory recorders; Mista Bright; Fibre optic illuminators; Deterioration of medieval coal.

Conservation News 25 November 1984. Topics incl: Conservation in Ireland (several features including materials techniques Irish medieval wall); Transparent lining on a semi-transparent lining; Applications of a humidity cupboard.

Conservation News 27 July 1985. Topics incl: Lifting the Hasholme Log Boat; Cold water storage of wood; PEG instability?; Radiographing a wrought iron cannon; Audley End: architectural conservation in action; White felt tip markers; On-site casting; Supplies of Silanes; An improved animal glue; A portable spot-test kit; Ethylene-diamine treatment of iron; Lace - to pin or not to pin.

Conservation News 28 November 1985. Topics incl: Statue of Liberty; Vacuum tweezers; Spot tests for metals; The use of soluble nylon; Various on Computers; Eastern pictorial art; Working as a guest restorer in Poland; Evaluation of silanes.

Conservation News 31 November 1986. Topics incl: Lightweight packaging; Computer databases; Hasholme Logboat; Computerised environmental monitoring at the Royal Pavillion; Chloride removal from iron; Restoration of the Burghley State Bed; Bologna Stone Conference report; Waterproof but breathable fabrics; Cleaning a large carpet for Hoares Bank.

Conservation News 36 July 1988 Computer aid; palm leaf books; USSR visit

Titles available from:
UKIC 37, Upper Addison Gardens,
London, W14 8AJ.



COURSES & SCHOLARSHIPS

Tate Gallery, Opportunities in Conservation Internship in Paintings Conservation, Ref IPC

Two year period appointment at Conservator F level commencing October 1991.

Applications are invited from graduates of a recognised course in the Conservation of Easel Paintings to gain 2 years' work experience within a gallery context at Conservator F level. Candidates must have 3 years conservation experience including time spent gaining a qualification.

Starting salary £11,657 pa for 41 hour, 5 day week, 22 days annual leave per annum.



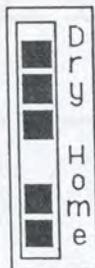
EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES

Humidity Problems?

Humidity control is essential for the Preservation of Cultural Materials

Dry Home Dehumidifiers supply a range of portable plug-in units up to large capacity fixed machines with capacities from 10 litres/24 hours to 100 litres/24 hours.

Please call **Dry Home** for further details:



Dry Home Dehumidifiers + Air Purifiers

1 Albion Avenue
Pymble,
NSW 2073

TEL: (02) 449 8947 FAX: (02) 416 8641

Suction Tables

The Victorian Centre for the Conservation of Cultural Materials (VCCCM) is as present using a prototype suction table work surface supplied by Robin Hodgson of RH Conservation Engineering. Any persons interested in inspecting the work surface or in giving it a test run are welcome to do so but please call in advance of arrival. The model we are using is 1200 mm x 900 mm x approx 45 mm thick. So far it has produced excellent results.

The sizes and prices of available models are as follows:

1800 mm x 900 mm	\$1,800.00	Deposit \$1,000.00
1200 mm x 900 mm	\$1,460.00	Deposit \$ 670.00
600 mm x 900 mm	\$1,185.00	Deposit \$ 400.00

The work surfaces have perforated stainless steel tops, aluminium support inside, black anodised aluminium sides and laminate bases. They are supplied without vacuum pumps.

Robin would prefer to construct more than one table at a time in the interests of efficiency, so orders are welcome. He can be contacted at the following address and/or telephone number:

Robin Hodgson
RH Conservation Engineering
East Creek Farm
Paringa Road
Red Hill South VIC 3937

Phone: (059) 892 728

Trish Stokes, VCCM, Ph: (03) 369 4677

For Sale

Quintillo Vaggeli Book Press (Bench Level Press)
Excellent Condition. Very New. Worth \$A6000. Must sell fast,
\$3000 or best offer.
Call evenings, Melissa Petherbridge (02) 810 8104

Adhesives for Textile Conservation

A number of different types of adhesives are used by textile conservators for the support of fragile textiles. The most common adhesives appear to be a range of different polyvinyl acetates (PVA) or BEVA 371.

A PVA which is commonly used in Britain but which is unavailable in Australia is Vinnapas EP1 produced by Wacker-Chemie in Germany. Research has been undertaken at the Konservatorskolen in Copenhagen and the properties of the adhesive appear to be suitable for conservation.

Daventry Conservation Products Pty. Ltd. has agreed to obtain Vinnapas EP1 for sale to conservators in Australia if the demand is sufficient. If you are interested in trying out this adhesive please let the AICCM Textile Specialty Group co-ordinators know and we will co-ordinate with Daventry to try and obtain a supply.

It would also be interesting to know what other types of adhesives conservators are using and why they have selected particular products. Please write and let us know and we can publish responses in a future Newsletter.

Textiles Specialty Group
Mary Jose



POSITIONS VACANT

CONSERVATOR

Archives Office of Tasmania

\$33,028 - \$34,168

Duties: Manage the provision of conservation service for the Archives Office of Tasmania, and also some State Library of Tasmania client groups, including:

- development of long term policies and planning for the preservation of archival material;
- undertaking traditional and modern repair and conservation processes;
- management, training and supervision of a small conservation unit; and
- provision of advice on conservation/preservation matters

Qualifications: A degree or diploma in material conservation or acceptable equivalent qualifications. Post qualification experience as a paper conservator and other skills and experience appropriate to the duties of the position.

For enquiries and detailed position description please contact Ian Pearce Ph: (002) 30 7477 Fax: (002) 30 7471.

Applications close on **30 Sept 1991** and should be addressed to:

The State Archivist
Archives Office of Tasmania
91 Murray Street
Hobart TAS 7000

The AICCM National Newsletter is issued quarterly in March, June, September and December. It is available free to all members. Membership enquires should be directed to The Secretary, AICCM Inc., GPO Box 1638, Canberra, ACT 2601, Australia.

Contributions and correspondence should be typed with double spacing and addressed to: The Editors, AICCM National Newsletter, Australian War Memorial Annex, 4 Callan Street, Mitchell, ACT 2911, Australia.

Telephone enquires can be directed to: Gina Drummond or Cheryl Jackson at the Australian War Memorial Annex, Ph: (06) 241 5644

241 6122

Final deadline for copy for the next issue is 6 November 1991. Contributions may also be faxed c/- The Australian War Memorial (06) 241 7998

Publication of technical notes or articles with reference to techniques and materials does not necessarily represent an endorsement by the AICCM Inc.

Advertising Fees

	half column	full column	full page
Positions Vacant	\$A 50	\$100	
Commercial	\$A 100	\$ 200	\$500

Editorial Committee: Gina Drummond and Cheryl Jackson

Typesetting: Jennifer Anderson

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Regional Galleries Association R G A of New South Wales LTD

An Opportunity exists for full time employment for a

Paintings Conservator

with the Regional Galleries Association of NSW.

The applicant should have a recognised qualification in Fine Art Conservation with a minimum of two years experience working in the field, OR a minimum of five years experience working under the supervision of an experienced qualified conservator.

The successful candidate would be based in the Art Gallery of NSW and would be responsible for undertaking conservation treatments using established techniques and furnishing fully documented treatment reports. When necessary work will be undertaken on site at Regional Galleries throughout New South Wales. This would involve surveying of collection, environmental monitoring and training of staff in preventive conservation techniques, handling, storage and documentation. Knowledge of word-processing would be an advantage.

Please enclose two current references. Salary Range \$28,000 to \$32,000.

Applications to Jane Raffin
Regional Galleries Association NSW Ltd.
Art Gallery New South Wales
Sydney NSW 2000
Enquiries (02) 225 1702

STATE LIBRARY OF VICTORIA

Senior Conservator

\$38,697 - \$40,676

The State Library of Victoria, opened in 1856, is Victoria's major public reference and research library. The State Library has a well-established Conservation Department with a staff of sixteen. Activities include the treatment and preventative conservation of photographic materials, works of art on paper, manuscripts and maps as well as conventional library materials. The Library has archival responsibility for publications lodged on legal deposit and other material.

The State Library is seeking a Senior Conservator to work in its Conservation Department. Duties include directing staff of the Paper Conservation Laboratory, planning for the storage and handling of Collections affected by building re-development, assisting in the development of conservation policies.

The person we seek will have a tertiary qualification or professional training in conservation; extensive experience in the conservation of library material; sound knowledge of general conservation issues; ability to plan and implement conservation programs; good spoken and written communication skills; ability to manage and train specialist staff.

A position description is available from Personnel (Ph: (03) 669 9833). For further information contact Jeavons Baillie, Chief Conservator, on (03) 669 9998.

Applications quoting position no. 08/20/0319/0 and ref. CR/6 should be sent to the Personnel Manager, State Library of Victoria, 328 Swanston Street, Melbourne 3000 by closing date of Wed 20 November 1991.

The State Library is an equal opportunity and is a smoke-free workplace.