

SPRING 1997

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from the chair

**'Untitled'**

The TAM Annual Meeting, April 9 - 12, Midland/Odessa

Each year, CMC works to identify and develop programs for the annual meeting which address topics of specific concern and interest to those of us who work with collections, specifically care and management issues. This year is no exception. Vice Chair, Gabriela Truly, along with CMC member JoAnne Avant, worked as members of the TAM Program Committee to create several sessions important to us. I invite you all to plan on attending these sessions: Automating Collections Data -- Is It Really Worth the Effort?, Disaster Preparedness: A Trustee's Perspective, I need to Borrow, will you Lend? And Record Photography Basics: Photo documentation for Everyone. In addition, don't overlook the pre-and post conference workshops:

Getting from here to there... Forklifts, Hard-hats and White Gloves

A CMC pre-Conference Workshop on Wednesday, April 9, 1997, and

Archives to Ephemera: Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about Paper

A post-Conference workshop on Saturday April 12, 1997

The CMC Annual business meeting will be held on Thursday, April 9, beginning at 5:15 PM. Please look in the meeting program for the exact location. We will discuss special projects and the workshop series for 1997 - 98, new officers will be announced, and awards presented. This year, we will recognize those who received TAM Scholarships to attend the meeting, welcome a new vice-chair, secretary and Officer at Large, and thank those officers who so generously gave to the CMC Board over the past two years of their time and energies.

I look forward to the Annual Meeting every year. It is one of the few times in the year when the majority of the membership comes together to discuss their concerns, and shape the direction of the Committee's work for the coming year. (This is also a time to plant the seeds for sessions for the 1998 annual meeting in Galveston!)

It is truly a privilege to be associated with such a great group of professionals. I look forward to seeing you in Midland!

*Lisa Rebori, CMC Chair*

***Inside this issue***

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Scholarship Announcement

Helpful Hints

Membership Listing

Workshop Review - "Partners in Care"

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**Networks Work**

All CMC members attending the Texas Association of Museums Annual Meeting are requested to bring at least 50 business cards. This will provide an opportunity for all of us to get acquainted and exchange cards.

**Plan Early  
"Capitalizing Collection Care"**

CMC invites you and your administration to a workshop on expanding collections care funding.

*Dear OPEN mentors,*

*Break the Ice*

*with your assigned newcomer by  
presenting a gift membership to the  
Collection Managers Committee*

**1997 CMC Scholarship**

The Scholarship Committee of CMC is pleased to announce that CMC is able to provide support for four members to attend the 1997 Texas Association of Museums Annual Meeting held in Midland. Congratulations to:

Letha Hooper of the Ellen Noel Art Museum, Odessa

Kathy Roland of Fort Concho National Historic Landmark, San Angelo

Judy Shofner of Dr Pepper Museum, Waco

Kandy Taylor-Hille of the Fulton Mansion, Fulton

**Helpful Hints*****Easy U-V Fade Test***

Cut a 2" square out of black construction paper and a 1" square out of red construction paper. Write the date the test was begun on the back of the red square and lightly tack the red square in the center of the black square with tape. Inspect the test squares regularly to detect the rate of any fading.

***Creating Archival Tubes***

Wrap regular cardboard tubes in aluminum foil to create an archivally safe tube. It creates a vapor impermeable barrier as long as the foil is undamaged.

***Consult Professional Journals***

Caught up in our hectic daily schedules, it is easy to forget to regularly peruse the professional journals and periodicals relating to your facet of the museum world. Make time to use these resources and you will often find valuable information to meet collections care challenges.

**Just Musin**

In listening to NPR about a month ago, they had a program on sports' figures and the public's perception. While not normally a subject I have a great deal of interest in what caught my ear was a statement about how the public, overall, thought that getting to play sports was a privilege, and because this was a privilege they could be held to a higher standard of ethics and morality than your average person. While it certainly wouldn't hurt a number of our sport's figures to at least achieve a level of average ethics, the argument was made that it is important to remember that playing sports is a profession not a privilege.

I sometimes feel the same way about museum work: I accept below average pay; don't question the fact that volunteers feel free to call me at home at any hour; and I contribute money on an almost monthly basis to our day-to-day operations, all are actions that might horrify someone straight out of business school but I take as part of my dues to do what I do. There are days when I honestly feel someone will come in tap me on the shoulder and say, "We realize you really don't know what you are doing, you'll have to leave now." I know I am not alone in this, but until we all start seeing our jobs as being that of a profession and ourselves as more than impostors, we will continually sell ourselves and our institutions for less than they are worth. Know that you have value, go in peace, sin no more, oh darn, caught preaching once again.

~ Kandy ~



**Workshop Review**

by Sheila Thornton and Bruce Lipscombe

***"Partners in Care: Caring for Objects on Display"*****January 27, 1997**

The Collection Managers Committee of the Texas Association of Museums held its first 1997 workshop of the year at Texas A&M University in College Station. Sessions took place at the MSC Forsyth Center Galleries and the J. Wayne Stark University Center Galleries in the Memorial Student Center. Attendance was high with over forty (40) participants including museum professionals and students from all around Texas.

The first half of the workshop took place at the MSC Forsyth Center Galleries (FCG). Timothy Novak, Director and Curator for FCG welcomed all participants and introduced the Galleries and art collections.

For the first session, speaker, Amy Day, Collections Manager for the Bush Presidential Library and Museum, addressed pest control and environmental monitoring, and gave a thorough introduction to "bio-deterioration". She cited our common preservation goals will only be achieved through continuing education and thereby remain in step with the ever advancing technology. "Bio-deterioration" is a natural process and will occur if the environmental conditions are right. Fungi spores need the correct conditions to grow, are air born and are easier to see than bacteria. Bacteria however, spread by division and the detrimental effects are slower to be recognized. Yet, the presence of bacteria make objects more susceptible to fungus. Insects eat the fungus, nest, reproduce, defecate and ultimately add to the ever growing food chain effect. The best defense is to prevent infestation. Good housekeeping is crucial. To break the vicious cycle, the food must be removed. Regular cleaning will produce the desired effect. Promptly clean-up any potential nesting material, especially in dark out of the way corners and behind furniture.

Sound collections management will enable you to control what is coming in through new acquisitions and loans, and a good monitoring program will let you know what you have by sticky traps and seasonal evidence. Armed with definitive evidence consult a qualified professional. She stressed that you have to know what your killing in order to kill it.

During the second session, Sheila Thornton, Registrar for the FCG, discussed how to incorporate management of security, the facilities, and general housekeeping through the use of a checklist, one for opening procedures and one for closing procedures. She addressed the components of the FCG checklists which incorporate and identify all areas of responsibility and the order in which security procedures should be followed. Other tasks on these checklists include visually inspecting all artwork on exhibit and in storage, checking for cracks or breaks in windows surrounding the facility, checking for insects and other pests, and checking for water leaks and soiled and/or dirty areas which need attention. In addition, she emphasized the importance of including potential/past problem areas (i.e. leaky pipes under the sinks, in restrooms, or in basement storage areas) and general housekeeping duties in the checklist. Copies of the "FCG Security Checklist for Opening Procedures", "FCG Security Checklist for Closing Procedures," and FCG Maintenance Schedule" (schedule for general housekeeping) were provided to all participants.

Sheila also discussed some of the challenges of the FCG which comprised of maintaining clean air quality and excessive ultra-violet light from the numerous windows surrounding the Galleries and from fluorescent lighting. Solutions included the use of anti-microbial air filters in the air handling system to filter-out mold, mildew, fungi, and bacteria and the use of U-V filtering glass tint on windows and U-V filtering fluorescent bulb jackets.

The group was dismissed for lunch. Lunch was prepared by TAMU Food Services and served in the Memorial Student Center.

## Workshop Review Continued

The second half of the workshop took place at the J. Wayne Stark University Center Galleries (UCG). Speaker, Catherine A. Hastedt, Curator of UCG, spoke about maintenance of outdoor sculpture. During her slide presentation of outdoor sculpture on the TAMU campus, Cathy discussed the challenges of working with and educating the student and alumni population on proper maintenance of outdoor sculpture (not to use Brasso when polishing sculptures and rubbing away many of the fine details). Components of an "Outdoor Sculpture Maintenance Plan" were discussed. This plan included the following: *Step 1* - Development of an inventory, *Step 2* - Condition survey done by a professional conservator which should include: a) Technical descriptions and condition assessments of each sculpture; b) Maintenance recommendations for each sculpture; c) Assignment of priorities to recommend activities; d) Estimate of resources required; and *Step 3* - Development of a Long Range Maintenance Plan using information gathered from the conservator. An "SOS! Outdoor Sculpture Source List" was also provided to all participants.

During the last session, speaker, Steven Smith, Assistant Professor & Special Collections Librarian for the TAMU Cushing Memorial Library, discussed how to care for books on display. Steve emphasized the importance of regarding books as fine art objects or artifacts rather than containers of information. He demonstrated how and why it is important to properly support books using art-safe materials and how to pack books for shipment. In addition, he stressed the importance of monitoring the environment using hygrometers (inside and outside of a case) in which books are displayed. Materials used for displaying books include Mylar, acid-free cardboard, book cloth, davey board, foam core, barrier board, corrugated cardboard, ethafoam, and volara. These materials were passed around and a "MATERIALS USED AND THEIR SOURCES" listing were also provided to all participants.

Steve also briefly spoke about tools used to care for objects - specifically an "ArtCart." He discussed the difficulties that he had in obtaining information for the purchase of a cart for transporting large paintings. As a result, Steve and his staff consulted with "Tim the Tool Man" for their construction project (without any disasters) to build a custom-made "ArtCart." Steve pointed out the importance of measuring doors, elevators, and relevant space before building your own cart. A diagram of the "ArtCart (with dimensions)" and a "Materials and Tools for the ArtCart" information sheet were provided to all participants.

After the workshop, a tour of UCG's storage area was given by Cathy Hastedt.

### Comments for Speakers

Steve Smith liked the "cross-pollination of the library and museum world.." He enjoyed all sessions and found them informative and educational and thinks that it is important to have these kinds of workshops for smaller groups. He loved the lunch and thanks CMC for the complimentary lunch.

Sheila Thornton enjoyed the experience of planning and organizing this workshop for CMC and would like to thank all the speakers for their time, preparation, and participation. Special thanks go to Lisa Rebori for her help, ideas, and persistence in reminding Sheila to "get the fliers mailed out before the holidays." Most of all, Sheila was pleased with the high turnout and happy to show the museum side of Texas A&M. Not all Aggies are farmers!

For more information or copies of information sheets, please contact the following speakers:

Amy Day (409) 260-9552  
Cathy Hastedt (409) 845-8501

Steve Smith (409) 845-1951  
Sheila Thornton (409) 845-9251



## CMC Membership

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Chris Boldt Railroad Pioneer Museum PO Box 5126 Temple TX 76505 817/298-5172 Fax 817/298-5171	Wayne Clark Ft. Worth Nature Center 9601 Fossil Ridge Rd. Ft Worth TX 76135 817/237-1111 Fax	Nancy Clendenen Poverty Pt. State Commemorative Area 791 Harper Bottom Road Ruston LA 71270 318/251-0070 Fax 318/926-5492	Ray Drummond Museum of the Horse PO Box 40 Ruidoso NM 88346 505/378-4142 Fax 505/258-4901
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## CMC Membership Continued

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Dan Walton San Antonio Museum of Art 200 W Jones Ave San Antonio TX 78215 210/978-8139 Fax 210/978-8134	Vernon Weckbacher McAllen International Museum 1900 Nolana McAllen TX 78504 210/682-1564 Fax	Judith Whipple USS Lexington PO Box 23076 Corpus TX 78403-3076 Fax	Rick Wiedenmann Anniston Museum of Natural History P.O. Box 1587 Anniston AL 36202 205/237-6766 Fax 205/237-6776
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# We need *you*...Please Renew Your CMC Membership

## Membership Form

☐ \$10.00 Membership Fee

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Zip Code + 4

⇒

Telephone

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e-mail

Please make checks payable to the Collection Managers Committee.

Send check and form to Sally Baulch-Rhoden, Texas Memorial Museum, 2400 Trinity, Austin, Texas 78705-5730



**At the Annual Business Meeting of the  
Collections Managers Committee**

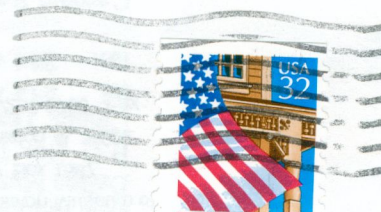
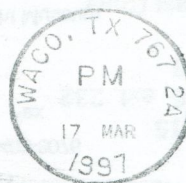
**5:15 - 6:00 p.m.**

**Thursday April 10, 1997**

**See You in Midland**

**CMC NEWS**

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**CMC NEWS**

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Bruce Lipscombe, Editor

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