

Collection Managers Committee

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 1999

from the chair ---

I attended the Winter CMC workshop with an immediate motive...I needed to learn matting so that the next week I could mat artwork and letters for my Museum's upcoming exhibit. I will share a little of what I learned in the workshop and then what I learned in applying my newly acquired skills.

At the workshop I cut a decent mat--good enough for low light levels. I also learned the whys and wherefores to properly attaching an artifact to a mat. Just prior to attending the workshop, I had discovered an exhibit nightmare from the 1940s. An exhibit prep person cut a mat, lined it with plastic and then masking taped an historic document to the mat. The staining after 50 years was deep and dark. Archival installation makes a difference in the long haul.

The mat cutter at the workshop was similar to the one in our prep space. Unfortunately, our mat cutter was not in as good a shape as the one at the workshop. I cut mats with VERY wavy lines. I cursed. To make it worse, my arm and back hurt from bending over the mat cutter. I decided to use what this University (UT) provides...fast internet service...to look up on the web what problems others have had with mat cutters. I found on CoOL (Conservators OnLine <http://palimpsest.stanford.edu/>) a discussion on mat cutter ergonomics. One conservator recommended hand-held cutters because you push the cutter away from you instead of drawing it toward yourself on a machine. Drawing it toward you involved using muscles weaker than the muscles you would use to push.

I went out and found a mat cutter that ran between \$10-\$15. I used the mat cutter as my hard-edge and the hand-held mat cutter as my working tool. I noticed immediate improvement in both the mat and my back. I still do not produce quality mats, but again it is good enough for low light levels. I showed our public programs person how to use the cutter and he whipped out the entire exhibit worth of label copy in an afternoon.

Upcoming workshops at the TAM Annual Meeting

Do not forget that you need to mark the box on the Annual Meeting registration form if you want to attend "Identification and Care of Photographs". CMC is sponsoring this special *during the meeting* workshop.

Add another speaker to the pre-conference workshop, "Binding Words: Clarifying What We Agree To". CMC is bringing in Kristi Alexander, chair of AAM Registrar's Committee, to speak. I am eagerly awaiting the AAM Registrar's Committee standard loan form model to redo my institution's loan form. Really, I am.

See you in Fort Worth for the CMC Annual Business Meeting, Thursday from 5pm to 6pm.

Sally Baulch-Rhoden

from the vice-chair ---

I find it hard to believe that four years of workshops and pre-conference workshops have gone by!!! Being Vice-Chair for the Collection Managers Committee for four years has been a lot of work. The most fun work I have ever done. I have met some very interesting people from all over. This job has given me the opportunity to make many new friends and work more closely with old friends. Well, I mean friends I have had for a long time (ups!).

If you are reading our newsletter for the first time because a colleague lent it to you, I urge you to join us. We really are a fun group. Not often do you get the opportunity to learn so many new things while enjoying yourself so much. We have had workshops on so many subjects. From planning for disasters (Corpus Christi 97), learning about computer cataloguing for collections (Winedale 96), marking objects (Waco 98), to joint ventures with other groups; Resource Sharing (San Antonio 96), Capitalizing on Collections Care (Fort Worth 97), just to name a few.

I am proud to announce my last project:

Binding Words: Clarifying What We Agree To

Texas Association of Museums

Pre-conference workshop, Wednesday, March 24, 1999

Ramada Plaza Hotel, Chisholm Room, 9AM – 4PM

Are your loan objects safe from legal seizure? Can your exhibit be adversely affected by a lender's death? divorce? bankruptcy? This full-day workshop will cover the legal aspects of loans, contracts, insurance, and the implications such problems can bring to your museum. In light of the high profile problems some museums have experience with seizure of art works for a variety of reasons, is there something that you can add to your loan contracts to protect your museum? Do current laws in Texas adequately protect museums in these circumstances, or is it time Texas had a law protecting objects on display in public spaces?

TO GET MORE OUT OF THE WORKSHOP, PLEASE BRING YOUR LOAN FORMS SO THE SPEAKERS CAN HELP YOU REVIEW THEM. (If you can bring them in transparency form for the overhead projector, that would be great!)

(Continued on next page)

To help us find out some of the answers to all the questions on the previous page, we have a great panel of speakers:

The Chair for this session is **Julie Bakke**. She is the Registrar at The Menil Collection in Houston, where she has been since 1985. Julie coordinated the move of the collection to its present location, which opened in June of 1987. Prior to that, she was Assistant Registrar at the Philadelphia Museum of Art from 1979-1984. At The Menil Collection, she is responsible for all aspects of collection management. In her spare time, Julie wrote the chapter "Organizing Travelling Exhibitions", for The New Museum Registration Methods, just published last Spring.



Robert H. Singleton, Jr. was born in Houston. He was admitted to the bar in 1976 in Texas. His areas of practice are business, construction and commercial litigation.

Kristi Alexander is the current Chair of the national Registrar's Committee with AAM. Formely she was Development Chair, and Chair of the Task Force to Standardize Loan Agreements. She is the Registrar at the Frank H. McClung Museum of The University of Tennessee. She has worked in collections for more than 20 years through several institutions.



William B. Allen (our friend Bill) has been an insurance broker for 25 years. He has been specializing in insurance for museum collections and exhibitions nationwide for 15 years! Together, Bill Allen and Patricia Hayes, are the Managing Directors of Henderson Phillips Fine Arts, an organization that now insures the collections of more than 100 museums and prominent private collectors nationwide. In his spare time, Bill wrote the chapter on collections risk management for Registrars on Record, published by AAM.

So, send in your registration, make hotel reservations, forward your phone, pack your bags, hug everyone – and head for Fort Worth!!!! We will have a wonderful pre-conference workshop, just because you will be there! I look forward to seeing everyone.

Gabriela Truly, Vice-Chair

Pretty as a Picture! Matting & Framing Workshop Review

Monday, January 25, 1999

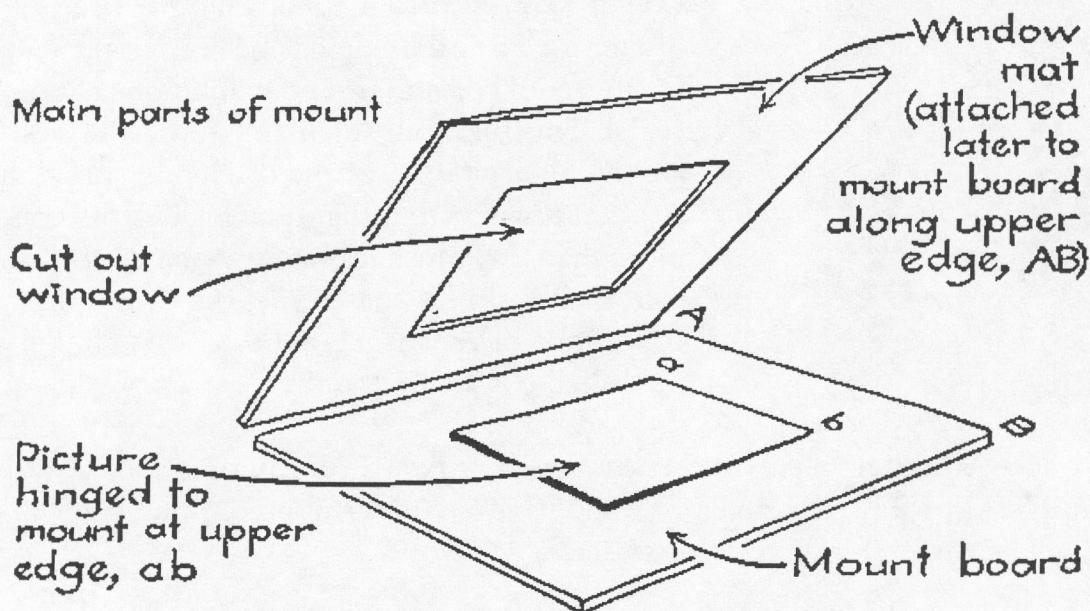
At The Marion Koogler McNay Art Museum, San Antonio
6000 North New Braunfels, San Antonio, Texas

This hands-on workshop taught participants about matting & framing for exhibition & storage. Included were helpful hints for low-cost options. Review by Lisa Rebori

Heather Lammers, Collections Manager at the McNay, hosted this day-long workshop focusing on matting and framing works on paper for storage and exhibition. Using examples from the McNay's collections, Lyle Williams, Curator of Prints & Drawings, introduced workshop participants to handling techniques and storage methods for paper. Lyle emphasized the importance of using acid free materials and the reversibility of all treatments. He discussed different types of storage and special considerations for works on paper. He showed us the various McNay 'standards' and described how a standard mat color, made into three standard mat sizes, was used with standard solander boxes for storage, and with a standard frame style and standard sizes for exhibition. This system is both flexible and very economical. He concluded with a walk through the McNay's galleries pointing out various ways of matting and framing for specific situations, discussing problems to look for and solutions. The group also visited behind-the-scenes; collections storage, the mat cutting room and frame storage area.

In the afternoon, Darren Jefferson, owner of Hall of Frame in San Antonio, demonstrated how to cut mats and prepare different types of hinges. Darren demonstrated creative solutions to mounting irregular sized works, and methods of matting items to be viewed from both the front and the back. All participants mounted and matted a postcard - (courtesy of the McNay Gift Shop) - a fun reminder of 'how to do it' and a great workshop!

Lyle prepared an extensive handout discussing the storage environment, equipment and materials, types of mats and mounting techniques and Darren provided a list of materials suppliers. Copies are available from Heather. Many thanks to Lyle and Darren for sharing their expertise and Heather for her organizational work.



From the Workshop

Texas Paper Conservators, specifically, works of art on paper

(This list does not imply any professional endorsement.)

Cheryl A. Carabba
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tel. 512.452.5880
cherylc@io.com

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Conservation Department, Harry Ransom
Research Center, UT Austin
tel. 512.371.9387
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Karen Pavelka
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pavelka@mail.utexas.edu

Perry C. Huston
Perry Huston & Associates
Ft. Worth
tel. 817.595.4131
pchfw@aol.com

Suppliers:
United Mfrs. Supplies Inc.
1.800.645.7260
Hardware, supplies & tools of every kind!

Larson-Juhl Houston 1.800.438.5031
Dallas 1.800.442.1371
Frames, mat board, supplies, tools, etc.

Light Impressions - ask for Bob
McWilliams 1.800.828.6216
Archival Supplies



Lyle Williams, Curator of Prints & Drawings at the McNay



Michael Date from the Hertzberg Circus Museum with Amy Fulkerson and Rebecca Huffstutler from the Witte



Darren Jefferson demonstrates how to use a mat cutter.

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nonprofit affinity group of the Texas Association of Museums
Kathy Roland, Editor and Evelyn Lemons
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Membership Form

☐ \$10.00 Membership Fee

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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