



COLLECTION MANAGERS COMMITTEE

NEWSLETTER WINTER 1990/1991

AN OPEN LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Happy 1991! Here's hoping that the holidays were kind to you and that you were rested and ready to plunge back into the collections.

Many workshops and meetings are coming up in the next few months. CMC is sponsoring a workshop on conservation on February 23 at the Institute of Texan Cultures in San Antonio. We are also sponsoring Marie Malaro in a pre-conference workshop at the TAM meeting in Corpus Christi. Both of these are exciting and important sessions; we hope to see you there. Later workshops sponsored by CMC will include sessions on pest management, disaster recovery, forms, and a suggested joint session (with the TAM Natural History Committee) on the revised Texas Parks and Wildlife permit policies.

One of the best investments you can make as a collections professional is attendance at the Texas Association of Museums annual meeting, which will be held April 10-13 in Corpus Christi. CMC will be sponsoring or co-sponsoring several panels at this meeting. Other noteworthy meetings coming up soon include the Association of College and University Museums and Galleries (May 19 in Boulder), the American Association of Museums (May 20-24 in Denver), the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (May 6-11 in Ottawa), and the American Institute for Conservation of Cultural and Historic Properties (June 3-8 in Albuquerque).

The CMC board has voted to give an annual award to the member who has contributed most to the committee. Send your nominations to me before the TAM meeting.

Sam Daleo is chairing the CMC Board nominating committee. The positions of vice-chair, secretary, and member-at-large are open. If you have nominations for any or all of these positions, please contact Sam.

Former CMC chair Rick Casagrande will be spending the next five weeks in England in an intensive course of study in museum insurance and appraisal. Rick has worked countless hours for the San Antonio Museum Association and CMC. Congratulations to him on this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!

We want to welcome Henry Crawford to TAM. Henry is the new registrar of collections at the Museum of Texas Tech University in Lubbock. He was previously registrar of the Milwaukee Public Museum. Henry replaces Rose Montgomery, who retired after many dedicated years.

If you are a seasoned (that's not quite the same thing as "aged") CMC and/or TAM member, please consider lending your services as a mentor for the OPEN reception and project. This project, directed by the TAM Field Resources Committee, matches the veterans of TAM with newcomers to TAM, to the museum field, or to Texas. Last year was the first time this reception was held, and it was quite successful. More information on the OPEN project appears elsewhere in this newsletter.

So the New Year is off and running, and we hope that joining or continuing to support CMC's activities is somewhere on your resolution list. Thanks for making 1990 great--1991 should be even better!

--Sally Shelton

MARIE MALARO TO SPEAK

The big news from the Collection Managers Committee for this Spring is Marie Malaro's participation at the TAM Annual Meeting in April in Corpus Christi. Ms. Malaro, Director of Museum Studies, George Washington University, author of **A LEGAL PRIMER ON MANAGING MUSEUM COLLECTIONS**, and formerly Associate General Counsel at the Smithsonian Institution, will present a pre-conference workshop on legal issues related to the care and feeding of museum collections.

Remember, this is our chance to talk to THE EXPERT on legal concerns related to museum collections. If you have any specific areas you would like discussed, please send questions to Rick Casagrande, San Antonio Museum Association, P.O. Box 2601, San Antonio, TX 78299-2601.

CMC WORKSHOP SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY

A workshop has been scheduled for February 23rd at the Institute of Texan Cultures. The topic, "Introduction to Museum Conservation", will introduce participants to basic museum conservation principles. State and regional resources will also be discussed and the manner in choosing appropriate conservation personnel and materials will be highlighted. Watch for a flyer which will be distributed to the membership in January with additional details.



TAM SCHOLARSHIPS OFFERED

This year, the CMC is offering two \$150.00 scholarships to attend the TAM Annual Meeting in April. Preference will be given to new CMC and TAM members, and if you are not a member, you must be willing to join in order to receive the scholarship. Letters of nomination for the scholarship should be sent to Susan Harwell, Institute of Texan Cultures, P.O. Box 1226, San Antonio, TX 78294. Letters should give clear evidence of need, as well as a statement as to commitment to the field. Please send letters no later than February 15, 1991.

OUTSTANDING CMC MEMBER AWARD!

The Collection Managers Committee is offering an outstanding member award for a person who has offered outstanding service to the committee. Letters of nomination will be accepted from any TAM member, but nominees must be members of the CMC. Letters may be sent to Sally Shelton, Chair, CMC, Texas Memorial Museum, 2400 Trinity, Austin, TX 78705, and must be received by February 15, 1991.

NOMINATIONS FOR NEW CMC OFFICERS

It is nominating time for CMC officers. Vacancies this year include Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Officer-at-Large. Nominations must be submitted in writing to Sam Daleo, Registrar, McFaddin-Ward House, 1906 McFaddin Ave., Beaumont, TX 77701.

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION AWARDS

The Texas Historical Commission administers an awards program for museums that is designed to recognize contributions in the areas of preservation and appreciation of state or community history. Any museum that has developed exhibits, programs, or educational activities within a historical framework is eligible if such activities were completed in 1990. Categories include Interpretive Exhibits, Media, Educational Projects, and Community Involvement; museums are classified by budget size.

The deadline for nominations is March 1, 1991. For guidelines or information contact: Kit Neumann, Texas Historical Commission, P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711, 512/463-6100.

TAM OPEN PROJECT II

TAM Field Resources Committee (FRC) announces the second annual **O P E N** reception Wednesday, April 10 at 5 p.m. at the Texas Association of Museums Annual Meeting in Corpus Christi. **O P E N** is the anachronism for "Orient Professionals and Establish Networks". The Project encourages those who are new to the profession or new to the state to take advantage of this opportunity to strengthen their professional networks. A more immediate goal is to reduce "wall flower" time for those new to the TAM Annual Meeting.

In order to participate in the **O P E N** Project, sign up on the annual meeting pre-registration form and begin the meeting's camaraderie by attending the April 10 reception.

The FRC will match **NEWCOMERS** with **MENTORS**, longstanding TAM members, who have agreed to acquaint the **O P E N** participants with TAM through introductions and time spent together at the Annual Meeting (e.g., attending a session together, being recognized at the Thursday luncheon and Friday morning business meeting, etc.).

Please consider volunteering as a **MENTOR** or if you are new to TAM, please consider being a **NEWCOMER** and signing up.

FASB ISSUES DRAFT IN COLLECTIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

The Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) is an independent body which sets the standards by which accounting is practiced in this country. Periodically, the board examines issues pertinent to the field of accounting and recommends changes which are considered greatly accepted accounting principles. If adopted by FASB, the recommendations must be conformed to when financial statements are prepared and audits are conducted. . . .

FASB has recently issued an Exposure Draft entitled "Accounting for Contributions Received and Contributions Made and Capitalization of Works of Art, Historical Treasures, and Similar Assets." The recommendations have serious implications for nonprofit organizations, and for museums in particular. -

Written comments are invited until May 1, 1991, and a Public Hearing has been scheduled in Norwalk, Connecticut, on July 18 and 19, 1991. Any individual or organization may send written comments to the Director of Research and Technical Activities, Financial Accounting Standards Board, File Reference 096-B, P.O. Box 5116, Norwalk, CT 06856. One copy of the exposure draft is available free of charge until May 1, by writing to the same address.

See reprinted summary of portions of the exposure draft in **TAM Museline**, volume 10, number 1, January/February 1991.

The issues raised in this proposal will have serious implications for collections in particular.