

WINTER 1996

from the chair

As the holidays approach, and CMC begins its 10th year, the members of the Board express their appreciation to all of you who have contributed to make CMC a success. Many of you have volunteered time and energy to suggest and create TAM programs, there have been many who have freely shared their special knowledge, called in favors, and extended hospitality to create high quality workshops, and there are those who have graciously answered the phone and shared information, support, and ideas with colleagues down the street or across the state. In addition there have been those who contributed money and in-kind gifts so that CMC could continue its mission. We give each of you our heart felt thanks.

Please take a moment to look inside this newsletter. There is a call for nominations for three Board positions, scholarship applications and registration form for the January workshop in College Station. In addition you may wish to get a jump on renewing your CMC membership for 1997! Each year CMC has been able to provide one member a substantial scholarship to the TAM Annual meeting and underwrite a pre-conference workshop, thanks to the membership.

CMC is a success because YOU have made it so. It is a pleasure to work with all of you and to enjoy the benefits of your support and friendship. See you in College Station in January and , until then

Happy Holidays to you all!

Lisa Rebori, CMC Chair

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CMC Officers 1996

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Nominating Committee

Ms. Sherry Humphries, Star of the Republic Museum, P.O. Box 317, Washington, Texas 77880, (409) 878-2461.

Programs Committee

Gabriela Truly, Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 North Harwood, Dallas, Texas 75201, (214) 922-1267.

Scholarship Nominations


The Collection Managers Committee is accepting applications for its annual scholarship to help defray costs of the TAM Annual Meeting. The 1997 meeting is scheduled for April 9 -12 in Midland. The Scholarship is intended for CMC members who are new to the field or who have been unable in the past to attend an Annual Meeting. To apply for the scholarship, send a resume, letter of interest and letter of support from your supervisor by February 15, 1997 to Lisa Rebori, Houston Museum of Natural Science, No. 1 Hermann Cr. Dr., Houston, Texas 77030.

Outstanding Member Award

The CMC annually presents an award to one of its members for outstanding service to the committee and the museum community. 1997 Outstanding Member Award nominations should be sent to Sherry Humphries at Star of the Republic Museum, P.O. Box 317, Washington, Texas 77880.

Call for 1998 TAM Proposals

The TAM Annual Meeting in 1998 is already in preparation and is soliciting suggestions from the membership for a conference theme. If you would like to become more involved in the process of selecting a conference theme, or have specific ideas to share, contact Eliza Phelps at the Houston Museum of Natural Science, (713) 639-4674.



**CHRISTMAS IS COMING
AND YOUR MEMBERSHIP
EXPIRES SOON**

Treat yourself or a COLLEAGUE to an early
CHRISTMAS GIFT!

Please complete this CMC Membership
form and mail it today.

Membership Form

☐ \$10.00 Membership Fee

⇒

Name (please print clearly)

Institution

⇒

Address

City

State

Zip Code + 4

⇒

Telephone

Fax

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

Officer Nominations

Positions slated for elections in 1997 are: **Vice-Chair, Secretary** and one **Officer-at-Large** position. The Officer-at-Large position works with Standing Committees one year and serves as the Editor of the Newsletter in the second year. If you are interested in working for CMC as an officer, or if you would like to nominate a person to the CMC Board, please contact the Nominations Chair - Sherry Humphries, Star of the Republic Museum, P.O. Box 317, Washington, Texas 77880, (409) 878-2461. To nominate an individual to any elective position, the nominee must agree in writing in advance. The deadline for nominations is February 15, 1997. **Please get involved with input on officer nominations.**

Job Descriptions

The bylaws of CMC outline officer duties as follows:

Article Four

Section Three. The duties of the Vice-Chair shall be to supervise the Program Committee of the Collection Managers Committee for the Texas Association of Museums Annual Meeting and to assist Chairs of workshops, seminars, and presentations sponsored by the Committee aside from those at the TAM Annual Meeting. The Vice-Chair is empowered to designate members as workshop planners, as needed. The Vice-Chair will fulfill the duties of the Chair should the Chair be unable to serve.

Section Four. The duties of the Secretary shall be to record minutes of all meetings; to prepare, distribute and tally written ballots for election of Officers and amendments to the Bylaws; and to serve as the central repository for the Committee documents. The Secretary will preserve all Committee documents as prescribed in Article Ten of the Bylaws.

Section Six. The duties of the two Officers-at-Large are to supervise the various standing committees including, but not limited to, the Membership Committee, Special Events Committee and Tex-prep Committee, but not including the Nominating and Program Committees. In addition, a designated Officer-at-Large shall serve as Editor of a regular newsletter to the membership. The Editor will prepare summaries of Committee workshop and compile information of interest to Committee members.

Workshop Review

"Getting down to brass tacks: Condition Reporting your Collection"

October 12, 1996
The Hertzberg Circus Museum
San Antonio, Texas

Gabriela Truly briefly introduced the workshop, thanked the host institution and introduced:

John Slate, Collection Manager of The Hertzberg Circus Museum welcomed the participants to the museum and gave a brief history of the museum.

The first speaker was Olivia Primanis, Senior Book Conservator at the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center in Austin.

She began by explaining that it is necessary to have a condition report form that everyone can easily understand, that is easy to read in order to confirm written details and comment on. Always send loans out with an up to date condition report because in case of damage you can avoid insurance claim problems.

She agreed that there is need for a standard vocabulary in the various types of condition reports and a standard way of representing the details on the form. For in-house reports you can mark a photo or copy of a photo with a red pen instead of having to write out each detail.

The best reports are those that include the extensive written explanation of noted items and a photo or sketch of the piece. She also suggested that a procedure checklist be followed: back, frame, photo, etc., of each stage of the condition report.

Anne Zanikos was the second speaker, she owns a conservation laboratory in San Antonio.

She began by pointing out that the reason for a condition report is to document damage. Also degradation: degree of noted damage, added losses, cracks are now wider, etc. Try to identify changes that might have been made in the environment; temperature/humidity, moved to a different area, etc. Always write date of each change, location of item noted (try to measure exact spot).

She believes that one of the most important details in preparing a condition report is organization: begin from the bottom to first layer of painting. Begin with the auxiliary support (stretcher) and work your way to the varnish. Make the condition report form user-friendly, the diagram or sketch large enough to see all the written details, enough space to write, always include all the id. information at the top. Different types of forms to avoid trying to have too much in one form.

Next she reviewed three different forms pointing out the good and bad points on each. She encourages everyone to create your own form by combining aspects of all and feel free to continue changing it when you think it is necessary.

Always examine a painting on a clean, padded, flat surface with a raking light to see all the distortions on the canvas. She showed several slides to illustrate the various types of problems and terms most common in conservation of paintings.

Anne mentioned that some "red flags" to consider when planning to lend a painting are: flaking paint lifting off canvas, distortions or draws in canvas, proper framing, and protective backing.

Next John Slate guided us on a tour of the museum pointing out various improvements in the storage areas and future projects.

First up in the afternoon, Olivia Primanis continued her morning session by showing slides of specific condition problems in books. She explained each particular problem, such as red rot, skinning, warping, ink bleeding, etc., as she showed the slides. She also explained the reasons for these problems and helpful hints to improve our storage conditions for books.

Jessie Johnson, Assistant Conservator, Texas Memorial Museum had a handout titled "Glossary of terms used for Condition Reports for Objects". She explained that the handout included many very unusual terms to help describe the difficult objects.

She showed slides which illustrated the terms on her handout. For example she explained that some accretions, encrustation and even some infestation remains found at the time of excavation must be left on the object to assist with history and archaeological information.

Extensive discussion followed slides showing "bronze decease" and the various types of problems with metals. She described bronze decease as "a self-perpetuating chemical reaction". Explaining that it is not "contagious". You do not have to worry about having metals with bronze decease next to other metal objects on the same shelf.

Next the participants had the opportunity to test their knowledge and use their newly learned terms and techniques. John Slate kindly provided objects from the Hertzberg collection so each participant could complete a condition report. The three conservators then reviewed each condition report explaining where they would have used different terms and why, ways to illustrate condition better on the sketch, etc.

To all of you who did not attend, you missed a good one!!!

Partners in Care: Caring for Objects on Display

Monday, January 27, 1997

10:00am - 3:30pm

Hosted by the

MSC Forsyth Center Galleries at Texas A&M University

Memorial Student Center, P.O. Box J-1

College Station, Texas 77844-9081

(409) 845-9251

This workshop will introduce and address the following topics. Handouts will be included in all sessions.

- * Security Management
- * General Housekeeping
- * Facilities Management
- * Environment

- * Pest Control
- * Books and Works on Paper on Display
- * Maintenance of Outdoor Sculpture
- * Tools used to Care for Objects

MSC Forsyth Center Galleries

9:30-10:00 Registration and Coffee

10:00-10:15 Welcome and Introductions

10:15-Noon Session on *Security Management, General Housekeeping, Facilities Management, Environment, and Pest Control*

Speakers: Sheila Thornton, Registrar, MAC Forsyth Center Galleries

Amy Day, Collection Manager, Bush Presidential Library and Museum

Noon-1:30 Lunch in the Memorial Student Center

J. Wayne Stark University Center Galleries (also located in the Memorial Student Center)

1:30-2:15 Session on *Maintenance of Outdoor Sculpture*

Speaker: Catherine A. Hastedt, Curator, J. Wayne Stark University Center Galleries

2:15-3:00 Session on *Caring for Books and Works on Paper on Display*

Speaker: Steven Smith, Assistant Professor, Special Collections Librarian, Cushing Memorial Library

3:00-3:30 Session on *Tools used to Care for Objects*

Speakers: Sheila Thornton and Steven Smith

* Tours of Galleries and Storage Areas are available after the workshop.

Registration Fee:	<input type="checkbox"/>	CMC Members	\$20.00
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-Members	\$25.00
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Students	\$20.00
	<input type="checkbox"/>	CMC Membership	\$10.00
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lunch	\$7.50

Please make checks payable to
Collections Managers Committee
and mail to:

Sheila Thornton, Registrar
MSC Forsyth Center Galleries
Texas A&M University
P.O. Box J-1
College Station, Texas 77844-9081

Name and Institution

Address, City, State and Zip

Phone Number and FAX Number

This workshop was planned and organized by Sheila Thornton for CMC. All Fees support the programs and activities of the Collection Managers Committee (Fed. Id # 752253189), a non-profit affinity group of the Texas Association of Museums. For additional information, please call Sheila at (409) 845-9251.

CMC NEWS
c/o Historic Waco Foundation
810 South Fourth Street
Waco, Texas 76706

Workshop presented by the **Collection Managers Committee**
A non-profit affinity group of the Texas Association of Museums

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- * Books and Works on Paper on Display
- * Maintenance of Outdoor Sculpture
- * Tools used to Care for Objects

Hosted by the
MSC Forsyth Center Galleries at Texas A&M University

For workshop registration information contact:

Sheila Thornton
(409) 845-9251