

CMC

Newsletter

Winter Issue 2006

COLLECTION MANAGERS COMMITTEE OF THE TEXAS

WORKSHOP REVIEW

Paper, Clothing, and Textile Collections Care

By Megan Bryant, CMC Chair
Registrar, The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza

The fall CMC workshop was generously hosted by the Texas Fashion Collection at the University of North Texas on October 28, 2005. Twenty-one attendees gathered to learn about the care of paper, clothing and textile collections from our featured speakers: Myra Walker, Curator and Director, Texas Fashion Collection; Melanie Sanford, an independent textiles conservator; Mary Durio, Curator, and Edward Hoyenski, Assistant Curator, Rare Book and Texana Collections at the University of North Texas.

Myra started off the day with a discussion of “how to say no nicely” – in regards to the wide variety of textiles and clothing routinely offered for donation to the Texas Fashion Collection. The TFC has prepared a brochure which outlines their mission, collecting criteria, and their acquisition process. The brochure also lists very specifically the types of clothing they do NOT accept into their collection. For items that have been left at the TFC but are not being accepted into the collection, instructions are obtained in writing from the owners in regards to their disposition preference—as opposed to simple verbal instructions. The TFC does this in the form of a letter, asking the owners to check their preferred option and sign. Myra reminded us that one of the many hats we have to wear in our jobs is that of diplomat, especially when dealing with donors and potential donors.

We next heard from Melanie Sanford on the topic of dressing historic costumes for exhibition, breaking it down into the issues of preparation, materials, handling, and supports. During preparation as much information as possible should be gathered ahead of time to avoid problems and

questions during installation. The appropriate materials for use with the items to be exhibited should also be prepared and gathered in advance—materials such as: nylon and knit stockings, netting, thread, needles, scissors, ethafoam, mylar, gloves, etc. Melanie specifically recommended the use of powder-free nitrile gloves with historic costumes. These are a synthetic rubber that allows for dexterity and will not snag. As with all museum objects, movement should be kept to a minimum when handling historic costumes, and where possible, handling aids should be created to avoid touching the costumes directly. It is important to use the correct type of supports for historic costumes, but there are many different ways to create these supports — using mannequins, forms, ethafoam, stockings, netting, tulle, etc.

Melanie encourages creativity and experimentation in building supports – as long as the correct, archivally-safe materials are used there is no right or wrong way!

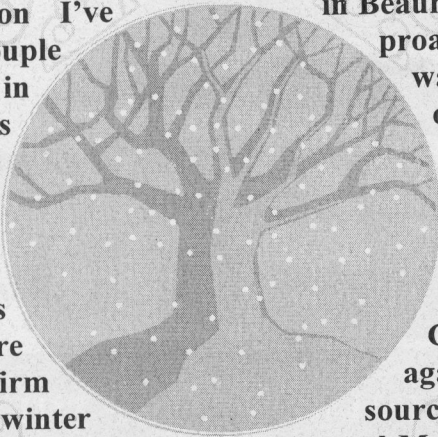
Just before breaking for lunch, we got an overview from the TFC Collections Manager, Heather Imholt, about their preparations for the exhibit *Balenciaga and His Legacy: Haute Couture from the Texas Fashion Collection*, which will be at the Meadows Museum at SMU in Dallas later this year. She provided interesting insight into how different pieces were selected for inclusion in the exhibition and why some pieces were later eliminated or added.

For the after lunch portion of the workshop we moved to the Rare Books Collection at UNT – to be discussed elsewhere in this issue of the CMC newsletter.

Letter From the Chair

Where have we been? That's a question I've gotten from a couple CMC members in the past few weeks and it's a valid one, as it's been awhile since we've put out a newsletter. Here's the deal: we were waiting on firm details on our winter workshop to include in the newsletter. Unfortunately we had some logistical problems with the workshop and ended up postponing it. So to keep everyone up-to-date, the workshop originally planned for this month, "The Many Aspects of Collections Research," has been re-scheduled to September 25, 2006 – at the Mayborn Museum in Waco. More details coming soon! Meanwhile, let me know if you're interested in attending.

Several CMC officers recently got together to discuss various issues and make some plans, and I'm particularly excited about our workshop plans. Topics to be covered at workshops in the next two years include: loans, emergency preparedness/disaster plans, complex shipping issues, deaccessioning, and the ever-popular care and preservation of photographic collections. If you have any thoughts on these or other topics, please do not hesitate to contact me.



The TAM Annual Meeting in Beaumont is fast approaching – I can't wait to see many of you there. (Did you see our ad on page 30 of the preliminary program?) CMC will once again have a resource table at the Annual Meeting. Be sure to look for us! And, if you're interested in taking a shift or two "staffing" the table, give me a call at (214) 747-6660 ext. 6619 so I can put you on the schedule. There are a lot of great sessions planned for TAM this year, including the CMC co-sponsored pre-conference workshop on Copyright Basics. Be sure to check your TAM program (also available on the TAM Web page – www.texasmuseums.org) for full details.

Don't forget – it's a new year, which means it's time for membership renewals. Please don't forget to send in your dues and renewal forms as soon as possible!

So, I'll see you *ALL* at the CMC Affinity Group Meeting on Wednesday, April 5 at 5:15pm in the Quentin J Room at the Holiday Inn Beaumont Plaza!

Megan Bryant, Chair

2005-2006 CMC OFFICERS

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CMC Newsletter

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Affinity Group Meeting

Wednesday

April 5 at 5:15

During the TAM Annual Meeting in

Beaumont

Holiday Inn

Beaumont Plaza

Quentin J's

As usual, refreshments will be provided – and we'll be sure to wrap up in plenty of time for everyone to catch the buses for the evening event.

**Letter from
Kim Peel
and
Rick Casagrande**

Dear CMC Friends:

We hope you all had a wonderful holiday season and that 2006 will be the best ever. We wanted to let you know how flattered and honored we were with your kind gifts and the recognition you gave us at last year's TAM meeting.

It has always been a privilege to work with such fine museum professionals and although we both have moved in slightly different directions, we are still closely involved with the museum world. The CMC is a very special organization, one of which we are both very proud to have helped birth. Involvement with CMC, TAM and all of you has been a highlight of our professional careers and, in addition to that, we have been blessed with many, many friendships.

Thank you very much for your kindness.

Kim Peel and Rick Casagrande

C o n g r a t u l a t i o n s

to the recipients of the
2006

CMC Travel Stipend Award!!

**Stacie Crosetto
Flood Curator,
Kell House
Museum**

**Robyn Lee
Manager,
Historical Park of
Denton County**

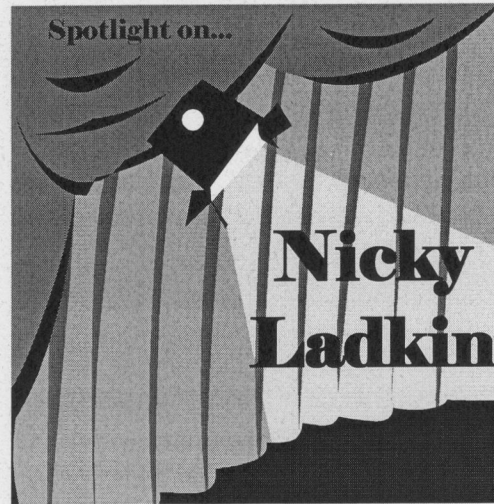
**Wes Phillips
Registrar,
Hutchinson County
Museum**

**Jonathan Plant
Collections
Manager,
Varner-Hogg State
Historic Site**



**It's Time
To Renew**

It's that time of year again – membership renewals are due! If you haven't already done so, please send in your membership renewal soon – you can use the form provided here in the newsletter or the one that will be sent out with officer ballots later this month. With membership benefits that include great networking and professional development opportunities, the CMC newsletter, statewide workshops, and a members-only E-group, CMC membership is a bargain at \$15.00 for the calendar year. So please, mail in your renewals early and continue to be a part of this great organization!



I first came to Texas from England in the summer of 1989 as an archeological field crew volunteer at the Lubbock Lake Landmark, and the wonderful experience I had there changed the course of my life. I discovered the Museum Science Program at the Museum of Texas Tech University that I entered in the fall of 1990. During my time as a student I worked in the Anthropology Division in the Museum of TTU, and when I graduated in 1993 was fortunate to be offered the position of Collections Manager for Anthropology.

In 1995 I became Registrar at the Museum of TTU and also was appointed to the Graduate Faculty of Texas Tech University. I began teaching the course in preventive conservation the same year and continue to enjoy working with students in the program on an ongoing basis. In 2003 I began to work on a grant-funded project with the Texas Historical Commission developing the documents to implement the Curatorial Facility Certification Program. I continue with this work through the summer of this year. After that I'm looking forward to the next new project.

In my life outside the museum world, I love outdoors activities, especially being with and working with animals. I have one dog, four cats, and two horses, one of which is just a yearling, and the other I'm riding and training. I'm also fixing up my house that is from the 1940's and which I relocated from an older neighborhood in Lubbock out to the country. Someone or something always needs feeding or painting, so I stay pretty busy!

I was quite amazed and pleasantly surprised to be given a "Ten Year Member" ribbon along with my name tags at the TAM meeting in Dallas this year, and although I'm embarrassed to admit that I don't remember exactly when it was that I joined CMC, I probably have been a member for just about as long. What I do remember is all the help, encouragement and support I have received from CMC colleagues throughout this time. CMC is a wonderful organization of great folks and I continue to be impressed by the quality of its programs and am proud to be a long-time member.



Mark your calendars!

The following pre-conference workshop and sessions will be of particular interest to CMC members.

TUESDAY, APRIL 4

Copyright Basics

Pre-Conference Workshop

Cosponsored by the TAM Collection Managers Committee
1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Bring your copyright questions with you! Dr. Marilyn Phelan, Paul Whitfield Horn Professor of Law and Professor of Museum Science, Texas Tech School of Law, will discuss copyright law in layman's terms.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5

Digital Imaging Basics, Part I and II

This two-part session will cover the benefits, basics, and outcomes of a digitization project. Speakers Dreanna Belden, Coordinator of Grants and Development, University of North Texas Libraries, and Ramona Hutchinson, Archivist, Lamar University, Mary and John Gray Library, will provide insight based on their digitization projects.

Museum Archives Basics

Dr. Monty Monroe, Archivist for the Southwest Collection at Texas Tech University, will discuss establishing an institutional archive, including the topics of preservation, finding aids, and retention schedules.

THURSDAY, APRIL 6

If These Walls Could Talk...Stories Told by Architecture, Furniture and Furnishings of the Historic House Museum
Derrick Birdsall, Historic Park Superintendent, Farmers Branch, and L.W.S. Petznick, Curator of Collections, McFadden-Ward House, share insights on telling the stories associated with historic houses and sites.

FRIDAY, APRIL 7

Refining the Collection: Creating and Maintaining Collection Policies and Plans
Nicky Ladkin, Senior Research Associate, Museum of Texas Tech University, and Kevin Tucker, Margo B. Perot Curator of Decorative Arts and Design, Dallas Museum of Art, discuss the difference between collection policies and plans and how to write and use them effectively.

Other sessions you might want to attend are:
Gushing With Big and Small Ideas:

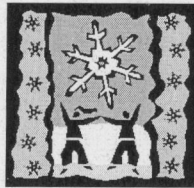
Annual Small Museum Roundtable

Dealing with Controversy: Conclusions

Emergencies and Disaster: What Do You Do?

Furnishing Plans for Historic Homes

Conservation Roundtable: How to Keep Your Collections Alive and Gushing



Who Wants to Kill a Book?

By Kim Cupit

During the afternoon portion of the CMC October workshop, the participants gathered in the University of North Texas Rare Book Room to see an informative presentation given by Mary Durio, Curator of the Rare Book Room, and Assistant Curator Edward Hoyenski. Mary and Edward discussed proper care, display, storage and handling of books and paper. They talked about the structure of books and the different elements that could cause damage over time, including light damage, storage methods, humidity and insects. Participants learned how to construct book cradles and clamshell boxes for individual books, to insert a board to prevent the text block from slipping, and one way to conquer leather rot. The presentation ended with a hands-on demonstration by Edward to illustrate the prolonged effects of damage on books. The entire crowd grimaced when he asked, "Who wants to kill a book?" and proceeded to crack the binding on a book. Fortunately the book was an out-of-date psychology book and he assured us that he and Mary would be using them later in a preservation class. All of the participants had a good time "killing" their own books while learning what would happen if books did not receive the appropriate preservation and care.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

\$15.00 yearly dues

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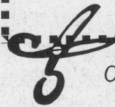
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Please make checks payable to the Collection Managers Committee.
Send check and form to Rebecca Huffstutler, The Witte Museum,
3801 Broadway, San Antonio, Texas 78209



*CMC Newsletter is a quarterly publication of the Collection Managers Committee,
a non-profit affinity group of the Texas Association of Museums.*



COLLECTION MANAGERS COMMITTEE OF
THE TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS

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