

Collections Communiqué

Winter 2008

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TAM Annual Meeting

March 17-20, 2009, El Paso

Looking for a job?

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Have an idea for the next newsletter? Email submissions and photos by August 15 to:

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From the Chair...

As we prepare for the holidays, I thought I would share a little story of things overheard in the museum.

A while back, I was moving artifacts from storage to a gallery we were installing. On one of my many trips I noticed a father and his two young boys in our Egyptian gallery. The front desk had just made the announcement that the museum would be closing in fifteen minutes and the father was trying to convince his sons that it was time to go. Like many young boys they were fascinated by the mummy and were rapid firing questions: "Is it real?" "How old is it?" "Is it a boy or a girl?" "Will she come back to life?" "Why did they wrap her like that?" The father, to his credit, was patiently giving age-appropriate answers while helping the boys back into their jackets. Just then the youngest boy spotted me with my cart full of carefully wrapped and padded artifacts. He turns and says "Look, Dad! They're putting the museum to bed. It really must be time to go." I couldn't help but smile and think that this is one of the reasons why I love working in a museum.

I wish you all the best in the coming year and hope that it is filled with moments when you are reminded why you love what you do.



\$20 for 20 Years

At the TAM annual meeting we launched the \$20 for 20 Years campaign. In honor of CMC's 20th anniversary, we are asking those of you who are able to make a contribution. Your money helps provide scholarships, speakers, and workshops for members of CMC. A list of all contributors will be displayed at the next TAM meeting in El Paso.

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Workshop Review

Dana Oglesby Collections/Exhibits Intern Williamson Museum

A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words...so is the Care and Handling of Photographs in Your Collection presented by Barbara Brown, Conservator of Photographs, Harry Ransom Center; Sylvie Penichon, Conservator of Photographs, Amon Carter Museum; and John Rohrback, Curator of Photographs, Amon Carter Museum.

Recently I attended the workshop, "A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words...so is the Care and Handling of Photographs in Your Collection," presented by the Collection Managers Committee and hosted by the Amon Carter Museum. The Amon Carter in Fort Worth is the perfect place to host this event. With its extensive photographic collections (over 30,000 photographic prints), it is one of the nation's leading repositories of photographic artifacts and is located right here in our backyard.

The rainy and foggy day in Fort Worth was made cheerful by the knowledgeable staff at the Amon Carter and Harry Ransom Center. Our day began with a warm welcome from John Rohrbach, Curator of photographs, and a brief introduction of our featured speakers: Barbara Brown, Conservator of Photographs at the Harry Ransom Center in Austin, and Sylvie Penichon, Conservator of Photographs at the Amon Carter Museum.

Sylvie Penichon jump-started the workshop with a stimulating presentation covering condition reporting and care guidelines. As collections managers, we all understand the importance of proper documentation of our artifacts, and Sylvie stressed the proper techniques and provided some great terms to help us, such as frilling and skinning (loss of top layer of paper fibers). Through the use of several examples from the Amon Carter's collection, she discussed different types of deterioration (physical, chemical, biological) and how to properly identify these, as well as how to change our collections' environments to properly prevent further deterioration to our photographs.

After a leisurely lunch full of questions and discussion on the morning's presentations, we enjoyed listening to Barbara Brown end our workshop with nitty-gritty technical information. As we go about the process of documenting our photographic artifacts, sometimes we are unsure how to classify an object, or even how to begin the process of elimination on figuring out exactly what an object really is. Barbara cleared this up in her detailed, example-filled presentation on identification of the photographic processes and media. Beginning with the

physical structure and make-up of the different photographic processes, we are better able to grasp how to properly identify the different mediums. From binder materials, supports, color, surface sheens and processes, we are now armed with a host of information to make better preservation decisions based on our artifacts' needs.

Sylvie and Barbara were very patient in answering all of our questions, and provided some great Internet resources we could look for more information. As a photographer and a museum collections assistant, I would say that the entire workshop was a great success packed full of interesting and useful new facts and solutions to bring back to our own museums' collections. These new procedures will ensure that our photographic archives are being properly preserved for the benefit of future generations.

CMC Scholarships

In celebration of the TAM Collection Managers Committee's 20th anniversary, CMC is offering a scholarship(s) to help defray the cost of registration and expenses for a CMC member(s) to attend the annual TAM conference in El Paso. Application deadline is January 31, 2009.

To obtain the application guidelines and form, please contact Kathleen Stiefel at 512-936-4603 or kathleen.stiefel@tspb.state.tx.us.

Join the CMC E-group

In 2004 CMC started an e-group through Yahoo Groups, now over 60 members strong. The group is open to all members of CMC and serves as way to stay in touch, ask questions, and share information.

To join the CMC E-Group visit http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CollectionManagers/and Yahoo! will guide you through the process.

Choose how you want to receive messages:

There are two ways that you can choose to receive e-mails from the group. You can change your preference at any time.

Individual e-mails—If you choose this option you will receive all new postings via e-mail as soon as they are sent.

Daily Digest—In this option a digest of all postings for a single day is sent as a single e-mail. You will be able to follow the thread of topics, but may not be aware of discussions as they occur.

How to post a message:

E-mail CollectionManagers@yahoogroups.com to send a message to the entire group.

To change your preferences:

If you need to change any of your personal preferences (i.e. the e-mail address at which you receive postings, switch from individual e-mails to daily digest, etc.), you may click on "Edit My Membership" link in the upper right side of the home page.

To unsubscribe or leave the group:

Send an e-mail to CollectionManagersunsubscribe@yahoogroups.com and your name will be removed from the group.

If you are an existing member of the group, but have not been receiving posts, please check your list membership at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CollectionManagers/members to make sure your contact information is up to date.

www.cmc-tam.org

Make sure you visit our website at www.cmc-tam.org. If you have any suggestions or additions for the website, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Chris Godbold at cgodbold@fortbendmuseum.org.