

SPNHC NEWSLETTER

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SPNHC

ADVANCING COLLECTIONS CARE

**Society for the Preservation
of Natural History Collections**

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New Special Provision for International Shipping of Natural History Specimens

Andrew Bentley

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On January 1, 2011, the latest IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations Manual (52nd Edition) was published and includes a new Special Provision (A180) that exempts natural history specimens from dangerous goods regulations. The Special Provision states:

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..... and much more!

A180 Non-infectious specimens, such as specimens of mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, fish, insects and other invertebrates containing small quantities of UN 1170, UN 1198, UN 1987, or UN 1219 are not subject to these Regulations provided the following packing and marking requirements are met:

(a) Specimens are:

- 1. Wrapped in paper towel and/or cheesecloth moistened with alcohol or an alcohol solution and then placed in a plastic bag that is heat-sealed. Any free liquid in the bag must not exceed 30 mL; or*
- 2. Placed in vials or other rigid containers with no more than 30 mL of alcohol or an alcohol solution;*

(b) The prepared specimens are then placed in a plastic bag that is then heat-sealed;

(c) The bagged specimens are then placed inside a another plastic bag with absorbent material then heat sealed;

(d) The finished bag is then placed in a strong outer packaging with suitable cushioning material;

(e) The total quantity of flammable liquid per outer packaging must not exceed 1 L; and

(f) The completed package is marked "scientific research specimens, not restricted Special Provision A180 applies".

The words "not restricted" and the special provision number A180 must be included in the description of the substance on the Air Waybill as required by 8.2.6, when an Air Waybill is issued.

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New Special Provision

A number of considerations and implications concerning the above are important to note:

1. Heat sealing of packages is now mandatory in order to use this Special Provision.
2. Shipping training is no longer a requirement. Although you are still required to know how to pack these shipments, packing training can be self-taught.
3. All natural history material in Ethanol, Isopropyl and Formalin (in concentration less than 10%) are covered by this provision.
4. A180 now allows 30ml of FREE liquid in each internal package (unlike IATA 2.7 or DOT 49 CFR 173.4 excepted quantities that allow NO free liquid). This has positive implications for entomology collections where wrapping of specimens is not practical and tissue shipping where free liquid is essential.
5. A180 may not be used for international shipping by regular mail. International mail (other than courier) is covered by the Universal Postal Union (UPU) who have not ratified A180. However, shipments originating in the USPS system may be sent as non-dangerous goods thanks to a letter of interpretation received from USPS to this effect. Packages are exempt from dangerous goods regulations as long as they conform to the individual destination country requirements as laid out in the International Mailing Manual (IMM) available online.
6. A180 may not be used for domestic shipping other than those countries where domestic mail is covered by IATA (in the US, domestic mail is covered by DOT who also have not ratified A180). However, thanks to letters of interpretation received by DOT and USPS, domestic shipments in the US and Canada are no longer considered dangerous and fall outside the scope of DOT 49 CFR 173.4, i.e., they can be shipped without any external labeling requirements but must be packed according to excepted quantity regulations.
7. A180 does not cover carriage of specimens on passenger aircraft in either checked or hand baggage and this practice is still forbidden (not only due to IATA regulations but also TSA flammable liquid regulations).
8. Note the labeling requirements of this provision – packaged marked with “scientific research specimens, not restricted Special Provision A180 applies” and Air Waybill stating, “not restricted” and “A180” in substance description field. You no longer need to use the red “E”

sticker for excepted quantities.

9. All three courier companies have ratified A180 and indicated that they will accept and ship these packages as shown below:

FedEx

“There is no Regulatory issue with FedEx that would delay a shipment. We have communicated the upcoming changes in IATA with the field and are in the process of printing the 2011 guidance for FedEx Express personnel; however we will send additional communication concerning these shipments. These shipments are not to be offered to any FedEx Office location for transit.” – Vivian Montgomery (Dangerous Goods Administration) - The last sentence refers to packages having to be collected and not offered to FedEx offices for shipping.

In the process we also solved the FedEx “dead animal” policy and as such all natural history specimens will be accepted for transport.

UPS

“We seem to have agreement regarding the air transportation of these items. UPS accepts packages prepared in accordance with ICAO (IATA) requirements. But one question has been raised regarding the allowance of this Special Provision by ADR for road movement. I don’t know if David Brennan knows if the acceptance by other modes was addressed, but we may want to get his opinion on this question. This would be of concern for all carriers as harmony between the regulations for all modes is necessary for complete transportation cycles.” – Brad Cook (Director, Dangerous Goods) - Andy: I will be working with IATA to ensure that all other forms of transport adopt A180 too.

DHL

“Effective January 1, 2011, provided the complete package is prepared in accordance with IATA/ICAO SP A180, DHL Express will accept these shipments worldwide without any restrictions or limitations. Furthermore, customers are not required to be registered or approved to ship dangerous goods w/DHL Express. Should you encounter any issues with DHL Express, please feel free to reach out to me directly or call our International Dangerous Goods Hotline at 1-866-817-3794.” – Jerry Freeman (Manager, Dangerous Goods).

I would like to thank all those at IATA, DOT, FedEx, UPS, DHL and USPS who assisted with the implementation of this Special Provision and procurement of letters of interpretation. Without them this would not have been possible.

One increasingly frustrating aspect that this has not solved is

This space could be yours.....

SPNHC Newsletter is looking for articles, news items, etc., for the next edition. Articles of 1000 words or less considered. Contact Andy Bentley (abentley@ku.edu) for information. The deadline for submissions for the next issue is August 1, 2011.

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Presidential Report

Jean-Marc Gagnon

Chief Collections Manager
Invertebrate Collections
Canadian Museum of Nature
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada



As Chief Collections Manager at the Canadian Museum of Nature, I have been formally involved in collections management for the past 15 years. Prior to that, my academic training (M.Sc., Université de Montréal; Ph.D., Memorial University of Newfoundland) and postdoctoral research (Fisheries & Ocean Canada, Mont-Joli & University du Québec à Rimouski) provided great opportunities to get well-acquainted with taxonomy and basic collection management principles. My specialty group is soft-bottom marine invertebrates, with particular interest in deep water polychaetes, bivalves and crustaceans.

It is hard to believe that nearly one year has already passed since I was appointed President of SPNHC. And after what is still a relatively short period of time, I come to realize that I am in the best position to see what really takes place and gets accomplished within our organization. Yes, it seems that everything tends to come across the President's desk and clearly, it is not so much about who's at the helm but rather who's on the team. And this report is an opportunity to look at some of the progresses, highlight the accomplishments and recognize the people behind them.

But before I review some of the highlights, I want to welcome our two newest Members-at-Large, elected earlier than before thanks to our new election schedule (August to December): Gretchen Anderson and Mariko Kageyama. Their three-year mandate will start at the Second Council Meeting in San Francisco (May 27, 2011).

And now that the dust has settled on the 2010 Annual Conference, I hope that you have already registered and reserved your rooms for the 26th Annual Meeting in San Francisco. This promises to be another excellent meeting. The Local Organizing Committee has worked hard to prepare a great program for us; it will be a great opportunity to visit their Certified LEED Platinum building and their new exhibit and collection facilities (<http://research.calacademy.org/spnhc>).

On a different topic, the development of the new SPNHC website progressed well during the fall but launching was postponed due to some content issues and testing of its functionality. Once online, the site will continue to evolve to better serve our community, including a membership database with the ability to signup or renew membership on-line. The idea of flexibility to support regional SPNHC nodes will go hand-in-hand with our goal to improve and expand our international presence and representation. In that respect, we look forward to 2014 for our next annual meeting across the ocean (venue to be announced later). We have also established a number of contacts in South Africa to examine the possibilities of a meeting being held there sometime after 2014.

On the publication side, many members have been working hard on several fronts: Volume 24 Collection Forum in press and the 25th anniversary special issue of CF is coming along nicely; finding a publisher and distributor for the Health and "Safety for Museum Professionals" book; working on an agreement with AIC for the online publication of the SPNHC book "Storage of Natural History Collections: Ideas and Practical Solutions"; and starting the process for re-editing the



The **Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections** was formed in 1985 and is recognized as a non-profit organization [501(c)(3)] in the United States. SPNHC members receive *Collection Forum*, a biannual journal of reviewed technical information, and two issues of the *SPNHC Newsletter* each year. The Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC) is a multidisciplinary organization composed of individuals who are interested in development and preservation of natural history collections. Natural history collections include specimens and supporting documentation, such as audio-visual materials, labels, library materials, field data, and similar archives. The Society actively encourages the participation of individuals involved with all aspects of natural history collections.

The **SPNHC Newsletter** (ISSN 1071-2887) is published twice a year, March and September, by the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections, c/o Division of Ichthyology, Biodiversity Institute, University of Kansas, Dyche Hall, 1345 Jayhawk Boulevard, Lawrence, KS 66045-7593, USA.

Changes of address should be directed to SPNHC Treasurer, Planetarium Station, PO Box 526, New York, NY 10024-0526, USA.

Submissions are welcome. Please forward announcements, articles and notes to the Newsletter Editors by mail or email.

Deadline for the next Newsletter is August 1, 2011.

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.....Presidential Report*

book "Storage of Natural History Collections: A Preventive Conservation Approach". Obviously, there is still lots of work to do in 2011 but considering we are working with a team of volunteers, we've made great headway.

The second half of 2010 was also marked by the establishment of the Strategic Plan to digitize the nation's biological collections in the US; many members have been involved in the submission of proposals to fund digitization projects. As I said before, any progress made in the US will contribute to global digitization efforts and hopefully help convince other countries like Canada that the short and long-term benefits are worth the investment. In this context, SPNHC will play an important role with respect to the development and promulgation of best practices in these areas of collection management.

In Canada, progress in the fields of biodiversity research, taxonomy and digitization are limited to a few initiatives like CANADENSYS; even the Barcode of Life Project is suffering from funding issues. A new report on the state of biodiversity and taxonomic research was released in the fall (www.scienceadvice.ca/biodiversity; full report downloadable), which examines the issues of infrastructure (e.g., adequate collection storage facilities) as well as taxonomic expertise needed to adequately meet our obligations. Not surprising, it finds a rather bleak situation, particularly for research on taxonomic groups such as non-terrestrial invertebrates and unicellular organisms.

On a positive note, SPNHC recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Natural Science Collections Alliance (NSCA - www.nscalliance.org) with the goal to increase communication and collaboration on projects and to join forces to address common issues that affect natural history collections and our membership. One particular issue in (but not exclusive to) the US is the fact that the difficult economic climate is giving justification to some elected members of government to question the value of institutions such as museums and the public funding allocated to these and their research programs. That is an area where we need to stand strong and be heard.

There are many other items and accomplishments that I could highlight; I apologize if I missed some important ones. I would like to thank all the volunteers for making these projects possible. And as a final note, I wish to acknowledge the significant effort of one individual, Andy Bentley, who worked tirelessly to improve the IATA regulations for the transport of dangerous goods to facilitate the shipment of fluid-preserved specimens. Bravo! It is volunteers like Andy that make SPNHC such a great organization.

Have a great year and see you in San Francisco!

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Best Practices Committee

This fall at the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America, SPNHC co-sponsored a best practices session. The theme of the session was "Geological and Paleobiological Collections: Best Practices for Access and Use in a Changing World." The session, organized by Ann Molineux (University of Texas), Tim White (Yale University) and Chris Holl (Princeton University) brought together 45 speakers from around the world including specialists from libraries, museums, information technology centers, NASA and various geological surveys. The goal of the session was to look at ways in which museum and university research collections have impacted studies of biodiversity, global change, climate, ecology and the history of life. Having such a diverse group of specialists allowed for the cross-fertilization of ideas and the exploration of emerging technology and innovations using these earth science materials to address novel questions of the Earth's history.

We are also pleased to announce the publication of the work done by our first BP intern, Ana Vollmar, in the journal *Biodiversity Informatics* (Vol.7, No.2) entitled "Natural History Specimen Digitization: Challenges and Concerns." This paper was part of a larger focus on digitizing natural history collections, which is the focus of the volume.

If anyone would be interested in organizing a "Best Practices Session" at other discipline meetings please touch base with James Macklin (james.macklin@agr.gc.ca) or Tim White (tim.white@yale.edu).

Respectfully submitted,
Tim White and James Macklin, Co-Chairs

Conference Committee

Deb Trock and colleagues are making excellent progress with planning for the 2011 Meeting, "Sustainable Museums - Sustaining Collections," to be hosted by the California Academy of Sciences from May 23 through May 28. The meeting is being held jointly with the Natural Science Collections Alliance (NSCA). The website for the meeting was launched in January and can be found at <http://research.calacademy.org/spnhc>.

Under the chairmanship of Tim White, the local committee for the 2012 Meeting, to be hosted by the Yale Peabody Museum, is working on venue selection and an outline program. A Facebook group for the meeting was created earlier this year. Looking beyond 2012, the Society has received invitations from two institutions; the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology for 2013, and the National Museum of Wales for 2014. Overall we have a strong program of con-

ferences for the next four years, but we are still looking for venues for 2015 and onwards.

Anyone interested in hosting is urged to contact the Chair of the Conference Committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Norris, Chair

Conservation Committee

Resource Display Units (RDU) Subcommittee

Co-Chairs: Cindy Ramotnik (US): ramotnik@unm.edu and Kelly Sendall (Canada): KSENDALL@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca

Neither the Canadian nor the US RDU has been deployed since the last meeting. No interest has been shown for developing an RDU unit for the European museums.

This is a valuable resource for the membership. The RDU's pull together conservation grade products useful in the storage and display of our collections and provide the membership with both a quick reference and a place to actually see and touch the materials.

Consider arranging to set up the unit at a conference in your area! Contact your country's co-chair for information on obtaining the unit. If there is anyone interested in developing a version of the RDU for Europe, please contact Gretchen Anderson.

Fluid Collections Subcommittee: Furthering the potential for using formalin treated materials in molecular studies.

Co-Chairs: Andy Bentley (abentley@ku.edu) and Richard Sabin (r.sabin@nhm.ac.uk)

The role of this subcommittee is to track progress in this area and to encourage and foster connections that will further that work. In the past year, Richard Sabin and colleagues at The Natural History Museum (NHM) organized a two-day meeting at the Linnean Society and NHM (10-11 June) entitled 'Unlocking and developing collections for genomic research', focusing on the issues surrounding destructive sampling, responsible and sustainable use of collections and extraction of DNA from formalin-fixed material. Richard will provide a brief report on that meeting and an overview of subsequent work by the NHM for the next issue of the newsletter.

Historic Adhesives Subcommittee

Chair: Rebecca Morin (RMorin@calacademy.org)

The goal of the Historic Adhesives project is to gather information on the adhesives commonly used in natural history museums and collections. This information was often not written down, or if it was it is not easily accessible today. Much of the data is locked in the institutional memory of older generations of preparators. We need to begin gathering it before it is lost for-

Membership

Membership applications for Individuals (US\$35), Student, certified (US\$20), Subscription or Library (US\$45), Corporate/Commercial (US\$300) or Institutional (US\$65) may be submitted to:

SPNHC Treasurer
Planetarium Station
P.O. Box 526
New York, NY 10024-0526
USA

Be sure to include the following information:

Name, Discipline Specialty, Institution
Address (Street, City, State/Province, Country, Zip/Postal Code)
Voice, Fax, E-mail address

Payment may be made by cheque, money order, Visa or Mastercard.

Membership application/renewal form by portable document (Adobe Acrobat Reader required) and by Word file available at: <http://www.spnhc.org/files/renewal-2008.pdf>.

Membership application/renewal form by Word file: <http://www.spnhc.org/renewal.doc>

Life Membership

The SPNHC Life Membership is a special membership category for those interested in the long-term financial stability of our organization. Life membership monies are invested towards the future goals of the Society. SPNHC life memberships are available for US\$875. The fee is 25 times the Individual Membership rate, currently US\$35. Life Memberships may be paid in one of three ways:

- (1) one-time payment of US\$875;
- (2) two-year installments of US\$475/1st year and US\$400/2nd year;
- (3) three-year installments of US\$420/1st year, US\$280/2nd year and US\$175/3rd year.

Please contact the Treasurer should you require further information about life memberships.

Treasurer

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.....Committee Reports*

ever. Progress has been made towards gathering base line information. A team lead by Rachel Morin and composed of interns at the California Academy have compiled a literature review. They are now in the process of compiling a comprehensive list of adhesives (brand names as well as types or varieties of adhesives) in order to craft the survey, which will be designed to systematically mine the institutional memory of preparators, and other sources so that we can move forward in gathering this data.

Risk Assessment: Standards for relating change in state of specimen to loss in value

Chair: Armando Mendez (a.mendez@nhm.ac.uk)

The committee chair is collecting images and case studies of examples of damage to different collections from colleagues at the Natural History Museum and the IPM-UK group. At this point he has gathered a number of well documented cases and is anticipating more to come. This will help establish the kind of photographic and related documentation we can expect to be available. Work to establish the requirements for a SPNHC web site documenting kinds, and extents of, damage to specimens has yet to begin.

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen Anderson and Robert Waller, Co-chairs

Documentation Committee

Things have slowed down a bit since the fall of 2010. There remains a lot of information to compile and digest from the survey we hosted last summer/fall. The results are still forthcoming in a future issue of Collection Forum. We are also still sorting through all of the valuable information retrieved during last summer's internship regarding Registration, Permits, Legal/Ethical Issues, and Hazardous Materials (including current helpful resources and websites) that will be used as content in part of the Best Practices section of the new and improved SPNHC website.

We hope to continue gathering pertinent information on various other best practices topics as we continue our search for "all the answers," so the SPNHC website can become a portal of information for museum professionals. If you are interested in helping, please contact one of the Co-chairs. We especially need help in addressing international issues (although we're waiting on addressing transportation issues until the dust has settled from the recent discussions with transportation companies!).

We are always looking for new members and if you are interested, please contact Marcy Revelez (mrevelez@ou.edu) or Liz Leith (etereba@ou.edu).

Respectfully submitted,
Marcy Revelez and Liz Leith, Co-chairs

Legislation and Regulation Committee

Congratulations to Andy Bentley for his tireless work in getting a productive discussion about IATA regulations on the table.

PERMIT-L, re-opened at and hosted by the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in November 2009, currently has 118 subscribers. Information and the subscription interface can be found at <http://gold.sdsmt.edu/mailman/listinfo/permit-l>. There appears to be renewed interest from several SPNHC members in setting up a master source page with information about and links to national and international agencies and permit requirements for collecting, exporting and importing all natural history materials. We will soon be posting a call for volunteers to provide links and information about the requirements of as many countries as possible, and to provide updates as regulations are changed. Thanks go as always to everyone who sends in permit-related stories and reports. PERMIT-L is as good as you make it.

Respectfully submitted,
Sally Y. Shelton, Chair

Professional Development Committee

Committee members are still working on evaluation forms and procedures for workshops and the mentorship program.

Other committee members are working on the Demo Camp. Please see the report elsewhere in the newsletter. The "How To" leaflet series is being revived, with the next installment on fossil invertebrates.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Stephenson, Chair

Web Committee

We are ready to throw the switch and move to the new website. This venture has involved many people and much additional input from the Membership committee. We leave detailed aspects relating to online registration and payment for that committee to report.

Populating the new website required a complete assessment of every page in the old site, correcting and updating where relevant, and then transferring the pertinent updated content into the appropriate slot within the new W2W website structure, using the new design parameters. W2W supplied a content gathering kit to facilitate the transfer of this data.

Several additional pages were developed; a few still need more text and further development. This process took longer than anticipated and was not completed until late September. All standing committee paragraphs are completed, thanks to those of you who supplied me with that material. All relevant copies of the Newsletter and Collection Forum are now available.

In addition to the new webpage we have kept the current site up-to-date with calendar, job postings, and news events. Please let us know if you see errors or wish to add material to our SPNHC webpage, and send any newsworthy items to Ann Molineux (annm@austin.utexas.edu).

We thank James Macklin for all his hard work over the past few years creating the current page and keeping it alive on the Harvard server.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Molineux, Chair

SESSIONAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mentorship

After the successful launch of the travel grant scheme and associated small-scale mentorship program at the SPNHC 2010 meeting in Ottawa, the mentorship committee has had limited chance to convene to discuss the furthering of our goals although some progress has been made in several areas by individual members of the committee.

The Fitzgerald travel grant scheme will again be available for attendance at the SPNHC 2011 meeting in San Francisco and all who are eligible are encouraged to apply. See the meeting website (and elsewhere in this newsletter) for more details.

Extended mentorship program

In light of our mandate to expand the travel grant scheme into a fully-fledged mentorship program for emerging professionals, the committee has been exploring the mentorship programs of other societies and organizations with external mentorship facilitation (administrative support) in mind. As yet no firm conclusions have been drawn in this regard, but work will continue. The Chair of the committee has been approached by the NSF BIO program regarding a 2011 innovation activity proposal for monetary support for minority mentoring programs for societies and professional organizations. They are planning an invite-only summit in March to which the Chair has been tentatively invited. We hope that this will facilitate both a transfer of useful information as well as potential future grant opportunities for our mentorship program.

International nodes

As the primary vehicle for the node system is the new SPNHC website, implementation of this has been put on hold until the official launch of the website and until the committee can engage in a wider discussion with the website developers about possibilities in this regard. However, progress has been made in preliminary discussions with African connections with an eye toward our first test case. Information is being gathered regarding the type of support that would provide the largest impact in this region. Hopefully more progress will be forthcoming in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrew Bentley, Chair

SPNHC REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

AAM Registrars Committee Crystal Boyd

The Registrars Committee (RC) of the American Association of Museums (AAM) encourages communication between registrars and collection managers across the United States. RC-AAM focuses its energies into 4 main areas:

- Coordinating collection management symposia and volunteer opportunities for AAM's annual meeting
- Managing an active RC-AAM listerv
- Providing fellowships for RC-AAM members
- Creating accessible resources to guide collections care

The Registrars Committee encourages you to take note of the following upcoming dates:

- February 18, 2011: Deadline for fellowship submissions to attend AAM's annual meeting (more info at <http://www.rcaam.org/> and <http://aam-us.org/am11/fellowships.cfm>).
- February 28 to March 1, 2011: Museum Advocacy Day in Washington, D.C.
- March 23, 2011: "The Basics of Developing a Collections Management Policy," a live webinar offered through AAM.
- March 31, 2011: Deadline for fellowship to attend SPNHC's annual meeting from the Registrars Committee of the Western Region (more info at http://www.rcwr.org/ts_uploads/pdf/spnhc_rcwr_stipend2011_1.pdf and elsewhere in this newsletter).
- May 22-25, 2011: Annual Meeting for the American Association of Museums in Houston, TX.
- November 4-6, 2011: International Registrar's Symposium in Houston, TX.

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.....AAM RC Sessional Committee*

The Registrars' Committee is especially excited to sponsor 17 sessions at AAM's annual meeting, nearly double the number of collection management sessions offered at meetings in the past. In accordance with "The Spark" (AAM's strategic plan), the Registrars Committee helped organize a webinar about the recently published *New Museum Registration Methods, 5th Edition*. This webinar is available on-demand at AAM's website. The Registrars Committee has also been involved with tracking art forgery by Mark Landis, a story which has been covered by *The Art Newspaper* and *The New York Times*. More information about the Registrars Committee can be found at its website, <http://www.rcaam.org/>.

Geological Society of America

Ann Molineaux

The 2010 annual meeting of GSA took place in Denver and at that meeting SPNHC played three roles. Our first was to convene a very successful topical session, along with joint sponsors: the Paleontological Society, the Mineralogical Society of America, and GSA Geoinformatics. The session, "Geological and Paleobiological Collections: Best Practices for Preservation, Access and Use in a Changing World" attracted so many papers that it expanded into an all day session with a separate poster session. The topics were described in more detail in the previous SPNHC Newsletter. Presenters were drawn from the USA, Canada, and Europe. My co-chairs were Tim White and Chris Holl. Many thanks are due to both of them and particularly to Tim White for his extensive input related to both the session and the SPNHC booth.

This GSA meeting was the first non-SPNHC meeting to see the new booth panels. We manned the booth for the entire meeting and there was much interest in both our publications and the Society itself. The booth panels and lighting were very effective. We have some suggestions for further development of the booth experience. We need support from SPNHC members local to a meeting site, even if, as in the case of Denver, just to hold the booth materials after the meeting until the next destination is confirmed or back into storage. Ideally it would be even more helpful to have members who can come and spend some time at the booth and relieve those who are involved in other ways, such as giving talks or posters. Such helpers would not be required to pay registration for the meeting, at least not at GSA meetings. We need to make it easier to become a member of SPNHC at the booth, and we think it would be interesting to have a business card drawing to win, for example, one of our publications, with the primary objective of seeing who is interested in the Society.

SPNHC took on another new role; we applied to GSA and were granted the status of associate society by the time of

the meeting. Thanks go to our President, Jean-Marc Gagnon, for expediting the paperwork required for this association. This partnership is important because it recognizes and strengthens the role of our Society in the sphere of geological and paleobiological collections. More information about associated societies is available at <http://www.geosociety.org/divisions/>. The next meeting of GSA will be held in Minneapolis, 9-12 October 2011.

Paleontological Society

Jessica Cundiff

The 2010 meeting of The Paleontological Society (PS) was convened during the Geological Society of America meeting (GSA) in Denver, Colorado October 31 – November 3. PS sponsored events included a short course on Quantitative Methods in Paleobiology and 14 topical sessions including one collection specific session "Geological and Paleobiological Collections: Best Practices for Preservation, Access, and Use in a Changing World" organized by Ann Molineux, Tim White and Christopher Holl. A number of SPNHC members presented talks in this very successful session.

The PS Collections Committee did meet, with only a few members, to discuss how to better reach those working with geological and paleontological collections and provide a wider platform for discussion of the challenges facing these collections. A suggestion was made to start a "Friends of Museum Collections" or "Friends of Geological and Paleontological Collections" group that will meet each year at GSA. The "Friends of" groups are quite popular at GSA meetings and tend to reach a larger number of people with that interest in mind.

The next meeting of The Paleontological Society will convene during the 2011 GSA meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota October 9-12.

For more information on The Paleontological Society go to: <http://www.paleosoc.org/>

COLLECTION FORUM

Manuscripts Needed!!

Collection Forum, the official journal of SPNHC, is seeking manuscripts for our upcoming volumes. Collection Forum is the perfect publication to:

- disseminate results from grants and projects,
- expand on a talk at the SPNHC Annual Meeting, or
- describe best practices developed at your institution.

Feel free to contact the managing editor, Susan Butts, at susan.butts@yale.edu or (203) 432-3037 with questions, to discuss your ideas for possible papers, or if you are ready to submit a manuscript. Instructions to authors are available on the SPNHC website.

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.....New Special Provision*

the ever more pervasive and complex veterinary and border inspections in certain countries – Australia, New Zealand, the EU, and certain South American countries, particularly Brazil. I have been working to accumulate use cases and, where possible, specific paperwork and filing requirements for these countries and will be posting this in wiki format on the new SPNHC website after it is officially launched so as to allow community input. I have also been working with Dirk Neumann in Munich, Germany, in approaching EU officials in an attempt to harmonize EU country specific requirements at an EU level (at present these are handed off to each member state for implementation). We have had some success but more work is needed in this regard.

As always I am happy to help with questions or problems and to liaise with dangerous goods officials to solve these if possible. I am also always looking for country specific information where shipping issues have been encountered.

Please contact me at abentley@ku.edu with question/problems or for copies of any of the above-mentioned regulations or letters of interpretation.

DemoCamp 2011 Call for Demonstrations!



Submissions of proposals are solicited for the second annual DemoCamp session at the SPNHC conference in San Francisco, May 23-28, 2011. DemoCamp provides a venue for creators to promote their technological solutions to advance the field of museum curation with broad applications for biology and biodiversity informatics. This was a popular and well-attended session at SPNHC 2010 in Ottawa.

Computer demonstrations are welcomed in any technologies relevant to natural history scientists, collections managers, or biodiversity information managers. Technologies demonstrated may include, among other things, collections/transaction management software, georeferencing web-based applications, and programs for analysis of data/images. DemoCamp presentations should feature some of the latest developments in currently available products/software/applications as well as ongoing research projects and prototypes. Live demonstrations of these technologies will raise awareness of new (and improved) tools available for data acquisition, documentation, and synthesis. Demonstrations will also provide a venue for idea exchange and feedback

Continued on page 10



Museum labels for wet collections

A material long used in the harsh world of chemical drum labeling has properties that are beneficial to the way collections are tagged and identified. Alpha Systems has brought this exciting material to the museum environment. Now collection tags can be printed on demand and submerged in ethanol, methanol, formaldehyde, and other chemicals for an indefinite period of time. The image is excellent quality plus the tag itself is extremely durable – temperature, chemical, tear, scratch and smear resistant. Alpha Systems provides the complete collection package of thermal transfer printer, preservation tag stock and ribbon.

**Alpha Systems, 13509 East Boundary Road
Midlothian, Virginia 23112.**

Tel: (804) 744-9870

Email: info@alphasystemsva.com

On the web at <http://www.alphasystemsva.com>.

SPNHC Travel Grant Program

The Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC) is pleased to announce a Travel Grant Program designed to assist members with the costs of attending the Society's annual meeting. Two grants were awarded for the 2010 meeting in Ottawa, and grants will be available for attendance at the 2011 Annual Meeting of the Society in San Francisco, 23-28 May 2011. See elsewhere in this newsletter for more details on the conference.

A total of \$3,000 has been allocated to the program and grants will be for a minimum of \$750 USD each. The deadline for application is 18 March 2011. Some conditions apply.

More details are available on the conference website at <http://research.calacademy.org/spnhc/grants>.



SPNHC

ADVANCING COLLECTIONS CARE

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.....DemoCamp 2011*

from potential users. Demonstration abstracts will appear in the conference proceedings.

The strictly-timed format of DemoCamp gives each presenter 15 minutes for a presentation plus 5 minutes for questions. No PowerPoint presentations or other “canned” presentations are allowed. Only live demonstrations of functional software or applications may be presented. Demonstrators must provide their own laptops with all necessary software installed. A projector and internet connection will be provided.

Demonstration proposals (abstracts) must be submitted by Friday, March 18, 2011. Abstracts should be prepared according to the guidelines defined on the conference website (<http://research.calacademy.org/spnhc>) and must be submitted electronically to Jean DeMouthe at jdemouthe@calacademy.org and to the session organizer, Amanda Neill, at aneill@brit.org.

For further information and deadlines please visit the SPNHC 2011 DemoCamp page at <http://research.calacademy.org/spnhc/program#tabs-profile-2>.

Report - GBIF 2010 North American Nodes meeting

Richard K. Rabeler
SPNHC Past President

The GBIF North American Regional Nodes Meeting was held on 11-12 August 2010 at the Biodiversity Institute of Ontario, University of Guelph, Canada, with major support for the meeting provided by five sponsoring organizations. Twenty-three participants included GBIF Nodes representatives from Canada and the United States, and 9 (of 14) of the international organizations headquartered in Canada or the United States that are Associate Participants in GBIF; SPNHC is one of those fourteen organizations. Similar meetings are held in other regions of the world by the GBIF Nodes Committee and proceedings of each are reported at the annual GBIF meeting, held this past October in Suwon, Korea.

This meeting provided opportunities to interact with GBIF personnel as well as learn of updates on activities of data providers. The GBIF informatics infrastructure was described and discussed, with a presentation of Darwin Core Archive, seen as a probable replacement for the no-longer-supported DIGIR interface.

Much of the time was devoted to discussing priorities and targets for the North American region, focusing on communications, taxonomic issues, geospatial processing, citizen

science tools, and standards activities. How would these activities both enhance data efforts in North American as well as fit into the broader GBIF Work Program over the next five years?

Where does SPNHC fit into GBIF? While we do not provide data ourselves, many of our members actively work on data provision as part of their daily tasks. We can assist GBIF in several ways – communicating about GBIF activities, providing expertise to help with initiatives and task forces, and helping to provide training activities. The Georeferencing workshop to be held at our 2011 San Francisco meeting was included as one of the training activities proposed at the Nodes meeting.

If members have comments or concerns about GBIF activities, I, as the SPNHC “Head of Delegation”, would be glad to

Barbara Hamann (1956 – 2010)

Barbara Lynn Hamann passed away peacefully with her family at her side on November 29 after months of struggling with cancer.

Born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Barbara started her museum career as a student aide in the Reference Library of the Milwaukee Public Museum (MPM), where she quickly progressed to the history section, cataloging ethnographic, historic, and archaeological objects and spending several summers as trench supervisor and registrar at Tell Hadidi, Syria. In 1978, she earned a BA with distinction in Classics from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. After two years in the PhD program for Classical Philology at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Barbara decided to shift her academic focus to practical applications rather than purely theoretical studies. She participated in archaeological excavations at various sites in the Middle East and Greece. In Wisconsin, she worked as part of the Archaeological Survey Team in the Chequamegon National Forest, and returned to the History Section of the MPM as a scientific assistant. Concurrently she pursued a Masters degree in Classical Art and Archaeology at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor which she was awarded in 1985.



Barbara found her true vocation during an internship in the conservation laboratory at the MPM in 1986 and spent the following years doing internships on Kommos, Crete, at the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago, and The British Museum in London. In 1989 she graduated with honors from

the Conservation Program at the Institute of Archaeology, University College, London.

She spent the next 9 years in Chicago at two of the city's premier museums. From October 1989 to September 1990 Barbara completed a Getty Trust Post-Graduate Internship at the objects conservation laboratory of the Art Institute of Chicago, surveying a collection of modern architectural fragments and participating in new installations. She then moved to the Oriental Institute (OI) at the University of Chicago where her work included countless treatments and contributions to the museum's expansion project, including in-situ treatment and protection of built-in sculpture as well as de-installation and conservation of monumental Assyrian reliefs.

When Barbara left to broaden her conservation experience at the Wyoming State Museum in Cheyenne in 1998, her absence from the OI was keenly felt. In her new position as museum and historic sites conservator, Barbara managed the museum's conservation laboratory, established conservation policies and procedures and provided state-of-the-art conservation and preventive care for Wyoming's history, ethnography, and art collections.

The Carnegie Museum of Natural History (CMNH) hired Barbara in September 2000 to expand its conservation focus from anthropology collections to museum-wide activities. Through her skill, dedication, and humor, she was able to bring together disparate parts of the institution and lay the groundwork for ongoing environmental improvements. She established a network of collections care and preventive conservation measures and successfully sought funding to implement significant upgrades to all collections storage areas. Committed deeply to conservation research, Barbara was able to investigate the sources of pesticide residues found on objects at CMNH. As a result she discovered that most arsenic on CMNH Hopi objects could be directly traced to a commercially produced paint used by the native artisans. At CMNH, she also co-lead the self-study process for the museum's accreditation by the American Association of Museums and was instrumental in the development of a museum-wide emergency preparedness plan.

Barbara was Co-chair of the Conservation Committee of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC) from 2002-2006. She wrote both mid-year and year-end reports detailing the accomplishments of the Conservation Committee and presented these accomplishments to members at the general meeting. As part of her Co-chair activities, Barbara reviewed the format and content changes to the SPNHC traveling Resource Display Units. She also attended the SPNHC Council leadership meetings and wrote sections of the Conservation Committee Work Plan and Leadership Manual. She promoted the long term preservation of natural history objects through her own research and encouraged collaborative projects among curators, collections managers and conservators.

Devoting much of her life to her passion for Conservation, Barbara also served as Field Reviewer for various Preservation and Conservation Grant Programs, mainly with the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

In 2007, when former CMNH director Bill DeWalt was appointed director of the newly established Musical Instrument Museum (MIM) in Phoenix, Arizona, he sought Barbara's expertise to help build and lead the team of conservators that would be crucial in opening and operating the new museum. Barbara established MIM's conservation department and ensured that all goals for conservation were met prior to opening in April 2010. She remained faithful to her responsibilities at MIM for as long as possible before succumbing to her illness.

Barbara is remembered by all her friends and colleagues for her quiet strength, her kindness, her steadfast dedication and determination to perform at the highest level, and for her quirky and utterly unexpected dry sense of humor. She is survived by her brother Frederick Hamann and her sister Patricia Bauer. In accordance with their wishes, a memorial fund has been established at MIM to honor her lifetime commitment. Donations in Barbara's memory may be sent to:

The Barbara Hamann Conservation Research Fund
c/o the Development Office, Musical Instrument Museum
4725 Mayo Boulevard, Phoenix, AZ 85050

-Irene Peters, Musical Instrument Museum, irene.peters@themim.org, with contributions from Gretchen Anderson, Laura d'Allesandro, Jude Southward as well as other colleagues and friends.

The 2011 Carolyn L. Rose Award

For outstanding commitment to Natural History Collections Care and Management

In recognition of his significant contributions to collection management worldwide, with impacts that go far beyond the herpetology collections he managed for 30 years, the Council of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections has voted unanimously to present the 2011 Carolyn L. Rose Award to John E. Simmons.

It is easy to see that John was a natural to receive this honor when one reads some of the accolades in the support letters that were amassed on his behalf.

- "For anyone interested in fluid-preserved collections, John's papers have been as enlightening as his wit. They have helped to refute the alchemy that has too

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.....Carolyn Rose Award



often characterized preparation and care of specimens consigned to postmortem existence in liquids.”

- “In my opinion, he is the most current knowledge that creates consciousness and awareness of what we have in Latin America referred to Collections of Natural History.”
- “His knowledge of all things collection management [is] immeasurable.”
- “I doubt there is another person on the planet who knows more about fluid collections and their management.”
- “For over thirty years, John Simmons has been one of the best ambassadors for our profession that we have ever seen.”
- “He is one of the worthiest [people] to receive the Carolyn Rose Award of all time.”

We hope that you can join us in San Francisco in May when we present the highest honor of the Society to John Simmons and celebrate his accomplished career.

Rich Rabeler, Past-President
Chair, Recognition and Grants Committee

The 2011 President’s Award

For activities which have furthered the objectives of the Society through outstanding committee work, prolonged officer roles, and or promotion of activities of the Society.

In recognition of his significant contributions to both SPNHC and to the greater collections community, the Council of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections has voted to present the 2011 President’s Award to Andrew



Bentley.

Besides his “constantly helping with all of the countless, thankless tasks that keep SPNHC moving forward”, three of his activities were the basis for his nomination.

- “First, however, there is his dogged pursuit of an easing of the regulations relating to the transport of dangerous goods as this pertains to natural history specimens. Globally, there are thousands of collections staff and researchers that have good reason to be grateful for Andy’s tireless efforts in this area.” “What he has achieved is far beyond what any of the rest of us thought could be accomplished.”
- “Andy deserves special merit for the amazing job he has done as editor of the SPNHC Newsletter. [He] has made the SPNHC Newsletter the most important means of communicating with the SPNHC membership.”
- “Motivated in part by his African roots, he has been one of the strongest advocates for the expansion and internationalization of our Society.”

We hope that you can join us in San Francisco in May when we present this award to Andrew Bentley.

Rich Rabeler, Past-President
Chair, Recognition and Grants Committee



SPNHC

ADVANCING COLLECTIONS CARE

SPNHC Membership Profile

Our members play many different roles from collection management and conservation to databasing and informatics to research and education. Most of our members come from a traditional research background while many new members are coming from the museum studies field. Our hope is to introduce our membership to a variety of individuals who are playing very dynamic roles in their museum's activities. We are casting our net broadly and selecting individuals from institutions of all sizes and backgrounds.

SNAPSHOT

What is your name? Diana Hobart Dicus

What is your position? Objects Conservator

Where do you work? 1997-Present. In private practice as an objects and preventive conservation conservator, working out of Boise, Idaho. Have not always worked independently, but have also served as a Conservation Fellow at the Canadian Conservation Institute in Ottawa, and been on the conservation staff at the Bishop Museum of Anthropology and Natural History, Honolulu.

When did you join SPNHC? I joined SPNHC in 1991.

IN-DEPTH

What drew you to the natural history field?

I am drawn to artifacts, especially ethnographic objects. They are usually composed of a variety of materials, related to natural history specimens.

Describe the nature of the collections you work with:

I work with multi-media collections. I study their housing environment, storage, exhibition, care, and preventive conservation for artifacts and specimens. I work with curators and collection managers.

What are your responsibilities for collections?

It is my responsibility to develop a relationship of mutual trust with those who have the primary responsibility for collections. Together we can then work toward developing appropriate collection environments, storage, exhibition, care, and preventive conservation strategies to ensure the stability of collections for a variety of uses. The sharing of specific knowledge and experience by those who have the primary care of natural history collections is invaluable to me.

Describe some of your activities:

I help museum collection people with grant writing. I do environment or collection surveys, with written observations, recommendations or suggestions, always with photographic documentation of collections surveyed. I present collection care workshops. I respond to threatened collections following fire, flood, or mold growth. I treat individual artifacts or groups of artifacts, whether for exhibition or in storage.

What do you find most interesting about your work?

I enjoy the people I meet through collection work. I respect and admire the commitment and the care that staff, volunteers, and private owners give to their collections. I am grateful if I am able to assist collection curators, managers, registrars, technicians, volunteers, and private owners in their collection care.



*Continued from page 13:
.....Membership Profile*

I appreciate the wide variety of materials, conditions, people, and landscapes that I have been able to see and with which I have been able to interact.

What accomplishments are you most proud of?

I am grateful to have been able to work in the conservation field for more than 20 years. My goal is to provide or enhance the stability of collections, artifacts and specimens so that they are available for research, interpretation and education. I want them to be able to tell their story, to give insight and information.

What do you find most fulfilling about your work?

It is fulfilling when I am able to bring a damaged or deteriorated artifact or specimen to a relatively stable condition; where it can be shared, studied and enjoyed by whomever owns and cares for it. It is also fulfilling when I am able to work together with an institution to improve collection care, storage, exhibition, and documentation.

What have you learned from SPNHC that has been particularly helpful?

I have learned about materials, techniques, and scientific research from the publications, the occasional papers or tip sheets, the meeting presentations and posters. It is always useful to see how people present information, even though it may not be new information.

How has SPNHC helped you?

The philosophy and guidelines of SPNHC inform my examination, recording, diagnosis, action, recording, and care of artifacts and specimens. SPNHC has provided me with an invaluable network of colleagues to whom I can turn for insight, vendors, and references.

New Policy on Scientific Collections

A new US policy on scientific collections has been issued by Dr. John Holdren, Assistant to the President for Science and Technology, and Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy. This builds on the work of the Interagency Working Group on Scientific Collections (IWGSC), and in setting targets for the ongoing work of the IWGSC and federal agencies, further raises the profile of scientific collections. The policy can be found on the OSTP website:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/ostp-2010-scientific-collections.pdf>

On the international scene, the Scientific Collections International (SciColl) organization, under the auspices of the OECD Global Science Forum, continues. Watch for announcements from this group soon. More information can be found at <http://www.scicoll.org>.

President Obama Signs Museum and Library Services Act of 2010

The President signed into law the Museum and Library Services Act of 2010 (S. 3984) on December 22, 2010.

The new law reauthorizes the existing programs of the Institute of Museum and Library Services with some important changes. The updated language calls on IMLS to take an active role in research and data collection and to advise the President and Congress on museum, library, and information services. This Act also clearly recognizes how libraries and museums contribute to a competitive workforce and engaged citizenry. New language focuses on the development of essential 21st century skills.

IMLS Acting Director Marsha L. Semmel remarked, "The vitality and innovation of America's library and museum sectors, and their commitment to the free flow of information and ideas, is one of the most valuable assets of our democracy society. I am pleased to see this law's emphasis on the essential role of libraries and museums in advancing early learning, workforce development, and education reform."

Speaking on the Senate floor, the Act's principal author, Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI), said, "The Museum and Library Services Act represents our national commitment to the institutions that are essential to building strong and vibrant communities. Through a relatively modest federal investment, this law helps build capacity to support and expand access to library and museum services at the State and local level." (See full remarks). The other original sponsors of the Museum and Library Services Act of 2010 were Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA), Sen. Mike Enzi (R-WY), and Sen. Richard Burr (R-NC).

The legislation advances the roles of libraries and museums in education, lifelong learning, preservation and workforce development. IMLS has been particularly active in providing leadership to align the activities of libraries and museums around our national priority for an educated workforce, a priority of the Obama Administration and essential for a 21st century global economy. Many of the statutory changes update current language to recognize the vitality and utility of the nation's libraries and museums.

The expanded authority facilitates IMLS's evolving role as a partner with other federal agencies. The ubiquity of the nation's 122,000 libraries and 18,500 museums, the trust invested in them by their communities, and their focus on

learning and community engagement make them outstanding partners in furthering our nation's policy goals in a whole host of areas including health, education, cultural preservation, the environment, and global awareness.

Full text of S.3984, 111th Congress (2009 - 2010) available here: <http://www.ims.gov/pdf/BILLS-111s3984is.pdf>.

2010 SAVE AMERICA'S TREASURES GRANTS

Save America's Treasures (SAT) competitive grants are being awarded to 61 projects in 23 states and the District of Columbia. By law, each award requires a dollar-for-dollar non-Federal match. This funding structure engages thousands of individuals and businesses in investing in these projects, which are as diverse as the peoples and cultures of this country and they represent the most significant events, ideas and accomplishments of the United States. In addition to these awards, Congress also designates projects as earmarks for SAT funds at the beginning of the federal fiscal year, and for fiscal year 2010, \$5.16 million was awarded to 36 projects. Together the competitive grants and congressional earmarks for Save America's Treasures amount to a \$20 million investment in our nation's most significant cultural and historical treasures.

Since 1999, the program has awarded 1,287 grants totaling almost \$300 million to preserve nationally significant and endangered historic structures, places, collections, artifacts, and artistic works in all 50 states and the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. These grants have leveraged another almost \$400 million in matching funds.

Of note in natural history collections:

Dendrochronology Collection, Tucson, AZ – \$425,000

This huge repository of wood specimens contains more than 2 million pieces. With this raw material, researchers can pinpoint single-year dates for past events and processes, which is vital to studying climate change and unlocking the pre-industrial history of the United States. Funds will provide storage systems within a climate-controlled environment to address current threats from rodents, insects, floods, and temperature variations.

19th-Century Dinosaur Collections of Othniel Charles Marsh, New Haven, CT – \$450,000

Othniel Charles Marsh was a leading American paleontologist whose dinosaur collection proved invaluable as the fossil record Charles Darwin needed to develop his theory of evolution. America's Treasures grant will help re-house the collection in a climate controlled environment, providing improved access to the collection.

Biodiversity Field Books and Expedition Journals, National Museum of Natural History, Washington, DC – \$96,783

The field notebooks and expedition journals of prominent American scientists at the National Museum of Natural History chronicle the growth of the scientific field and survey exploration in the United States. These 6,000-7,000 items represent unique documents of scientific work that are vital to understanding the biodiversity of the planet. This Save America's Treasures grant will conserve original artifacts and prepare paper documents for digitization.

Fluid Specimen Conservation Course

John E. Simmons

Museologica, 128 E. Burnside Street, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania 16823-2010; simmons.johne@gmail.com (303) 681-5708, and Adjunct Curator of Collections, Earth and Mineral Science Museum & Art Gallery, Penn State University, University Park, Pennsylvania.

I participated in the fluid specimen conservation course presented by conservator Simon Moore at the Horniman Museum (100 London Road, Forest Hill, England) from 01-04 November 2010. The course was hosted by Dr. Louise Bacon (Head of Collections Conservation and Care at the Horniman Museum). There were 12 participants in the workshop from the UK, New Zealand, Singapore, Taiwan, and the US. The Horniman Museum generously allowed our group to take over the conservation lab for the week and provided us with a comfortable lecture room, break area, and a generous supply of tea and biscuits.

Each day was a combination of well-illustrated lectures and discussions by Simon followed by several hours of supervised hands-on lab activities. Louise briefed the group on risk assessment and safety issues in the lab each day and made sure that all participants understood the necessary procedures and precautions to use.

Simon presented many before-and-after examples of work he has done as well as summaries of the work of other experts. Simon's lectures covered topics such as narcotization of invertebrates, re-fixation of specimens, alternatives to alcohol and formaldehyde, and identification of historic sealants (which may include harmless substances such as white paraffin, or toxic chemicals such as lead sesquioxide). Participants were provided with 34 pages of handouts that summarized the lecture topics, listed references, and detailed formulae, recipes, and addresses for supplies and materials.

The span of topics covered was quite broad, ranging from preservatives to humectants to container sealants. Many of

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.....Fluid Preservation Course



Figure 1: Simon Moore demonstrating the correct methods for cutting and polishing glass.

the techniques presented were highly specialized and difficult to learn without direct instruction, such as sealing jars with leaf gelatin and celloidin-mounting of wet specimens. The atmosphere of collegiality, mutual learning, and problem-solving in the workshop was invigorating. Simon regularly challenged us to find alternative solutions to problems and was generous with his extraordinarily broad knowledge of techniques and practices. As techniques were demonstrat-

ed, each participant was given the opportunity to practice under Simon's gentle tutelage. We were allowed to make as many mistakes as necessary as we learned to cut glass discs, grind and drill glass backing plates, and thread-mount delicate specimens, despite the fact that this often meant broken drill bits, splintered glass, and shattered syringes.

Each participant selected several containers of specimens



Figure 2: Re-hydrating specimens using warm Decon-90.



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from the Horniman collection to rehabilitate during the course of the week, beginning with staging dehydrated specimens through a simple but effective dehydration/hydration ladder using warm Decon-90. Other techniques that we learned included the elimination of air bubbles in specimens using a vacuum chamber, how to make glass needles and polypropylene needles, and how to diagnose and repair leaking containers. Each participant documented their work for the records of the Horniman Museum.



Figure 3: Repairing specimens with glass needles and celloidin adhesive.

I learned an immense amount during the course of the week, particularly hands-on techniques. Simon Moore's workshop is well-designed to provide an overall understanding of fluid preservation history and techniques with a special emphasis on conservation issues and techniques to salvage damaged specimens. I particularly recommend this workshop to those who deal with older fluid preserved collections and collections containing complex fluid preparations. The schedule for future workshops can be found at www.natural-history-conservation.com.



Registrars Committee Western Region SPNHC Stipend 2011

The RC-WR is pleased to announce that we are offering a stipend to assist registrars and collection managers with the costs of attending the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections 26th Annual Meeting to take place at the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, California,

May 23-28, 2011. The amount of the stipend is \$600 USD.

The deadline for application is **March 31, 2011**.

Qualification: Applicant must be a current member of either SPNHC and/or the RC-WR.

Applicant must submit the following:

1. Letter/statement of application describing how the attendance at the meeting will benefit their professional development.
2. A copy of your current resume.
3. Supervisor's recommendation letter.

Successful applicants will be notified by April 8, 2011. The successful applicant will be required to write about a session that they attended at the conference. Their 2 page article(s) will be published in the Fall 2011 RC-WR newsletter.

Email all materials to: Jacqueline Cabrera at jcabrera@getty.edu by April 8, 2011.

To become a member of the RC-WR please visit <http://www.rcwr.org>.



SPNHC Newsletter Advertising

Why Advertise in the SPNHC Newsletter?

Members of SPNHC are the people who use your products and services. They are often the decision makers about products and procedures that will be used in their institutions. These people want to know about products and services that will help them do their jobs more effectively. They are interested in the latest techniques and materials available, as well as educational and travel opportunities, new publications, and events and programs related to natural history and collections.

All advertisements should be submitted as .tif or .pdf files, formatted for a PC. Ads can be placed in one-sixth, quarter, half or full page. It is recommended that image resolution be 300 dpi or better. Electronic files may be e-mailed (abentley@ku.edu) or sent on a disk to the newsletter editor. Any necessary printer's charges will be billed to the advertiser. Payment must accompany the insertion order and newsletter copies will be sent after publication.

There is limited space in each newsletter and space will be allotted on a first-come, first-served basis. Ad placement is at the discretion of the editor. More information can be found on the SPNHC website - www.spnhc.org.

Conservation of the Anna Maria Redfield wall chart

A General View of the Animal Kingdom

Susan Butts

Senior Collections Manager, Division of Invertebrate Paleontology, Yale Peabody Museum, New Haven, CT 06511; susan.butts@yale.edu

The Division of Invertebrate Paleontology at the Yale Peabody Museum has preserved a rare and historically important ornately illustrated wall chart, *A General View of the Animal Kingdom* by Mrs. Anna Maria Redfield (1857). This wall chart was originally designed to accompany the book *Zoological Science, or Nature in Living Forms* (743 pages and also richly illustrated), “Designed for higher seminaries, common schools, libraries, and the family circle” and was published by E. B. and E. C. Kellogg of New York and Hartford, Connecticut. The wall chart is a masterpiece, with intricate and accurate illustrations of representatives of the animal kingdom portrayed as a Tree of Life, which illuminates the relationships of the major groups of organisms. It is an important document in the study of biology and in the pioneering work of women in science. The wall chart has eloquent phrases, which express a Victorian humanistic view of nature (often intermingled with anthropomorphism, biblical overtones, and the biological superiority of humans). The mammal branch of the evolutionary Tree of Life, states “The structure of the mammals is most perfect, their movements most various, and faculties most numerous”. As the preface to the book explains, it is written in a style, which avoids strictly scientific terminology or ‘popular character’ (non-scientific writing) and seeks to elucidate the differences in the creatures of the animal kingdom in a manner combining the two forms of writing in order to teach a broad audience.

Only 57 copies of the original print run exist, according to WorldCat, the electronic database of worldwide library catalogs (the book has recently been scanned and reprinted by the University of Michigan, so multiple copies of reprints exist). The wall chart is even more rare; only two other copies are known. Yale’s chart, however, had been exposed to the elements over the years and its condition had slowly degraded. The chart had a large tear (10”) along one side as well as several smaller tears. It had sustained water damage and discoloration of the varnish. The chart had two backings – the original and a second later backing. The origination of the wall chart in the Peabody is unknown, but it is presumed that it was purchased for classroom use, probably around the time it was printed in 1857. It has been housed in the Division of Invertebrate Paleontology for at least forty-five years.

With support from the Peck Stacpoole Foundation, the division completed a full conservation project to restore the wall chart to an acceptable condition, photographically document the process and results, and to frame the chart with archival quality materials in order to allow others to view this unique contribution to the study of evolutionary science. Dr. Susan Butts, Senior Collections Manager, Division of Invertebrate

Paleontology, and Catherine Sease, Senior Conservator, Yale Peabody Museum, administered the project.

Anna Maria Redfield (né Treadwell) was born of a wealthy Canadian family, educated at Mrs. Emma Williard Seminary in Middlebury, Vermont, and later undertook postgraduate classes in Clinton, New York (presumably the precursor to Hamilton College, of which her uncle, Rev. Dr. Davis, was president). She later resided in Syracuse, New York. As with many wealthy Victorian women, she was an avid naturalist and amassed a large collection of shells, minerals, botanical specimens, and scientific papers. Few Victorian women had the impact afforded by the publication and use of her educational wall chart and textbook. Yet, she remains a relatively minor and poorly recorded figure in the history of women in science, let alone biological and evolution studies in general.

Mrs. Redfield is listed in the book *Queens of American Society* (Ellet, 1867) as author of the popular work *Zoological Science, or Nature in Living Forms*, “a book commended by Professor [Louis] Agassiz [Harvard University Museum of Comparative Zoology, which at the time was a naturalist school for girls] as one that would ‘do great credit to a majority of college professors in this department’”. She attended scientific conferences and other conventions in order to promote and sell the book and wall chart to the academic world. She was given honors by Ingham University, the first institution of higher learning for women, the equivalent of a Masters of Arts, likely the first degree of this nature bestowed upon an American woman. A second edition of the book attributes the beautiful illustrations to Reverend E. D. Maltbie of Syracuse, New York, who had preferred to remain anonymous for the initial printing, but was deceased by the second printing when his identity was revealed.

What is intriguing about this chart, aside from its artistic merits, is that at this time it was uncommon to depict the relationship of organisms in a tree. This poster actually predates Darwin’s *Origin of Species* by two years (although Darwin’s scientific notebook from 1837 arranged organisms in a Tree of Life). Mrs. Redfield’s work is not acknowledged in prominent evolutionary texts, such as Darwin’s *Origin of Species*. Nor does Mrs. Redfield refer to Darwin’s theories of evolution, although she does refer to his research as a naturalist. It is important as a rare artistic object and is an important piece of history, in terms of science and the role of pioneering women in science, which should be preserved and protected.

The wall chart consists of four overlapping sheets of paper.

The paper had deteriorated over time and was in very poor condition. The paper was cockled and warped. A major tear extended approximately 10 inches into the chart from the lower right edge and there were numerous small tears along the edges. There were numerous small areas of paper loss, especially along the bottom and right edges, that were disfiguring and disrupted the imagery on the chart.



Chart tear, before

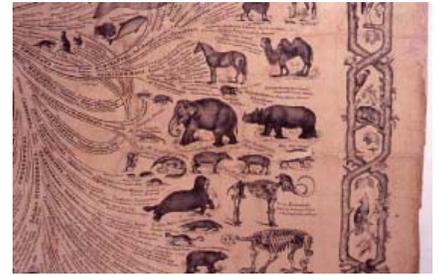


Chart tear, after

The chart had been backed twice. The first backing was brown and was most likely original. It had become extremely brittle and provided little support for the paper. The second, more recent, backing was not adhering well to the first backing. It was peeling off along the tear on the lower right of the chart and missing in small areas along its edges. The surface of the chart was varnished with natural shellac when it was made. The shellac had darkened, discolored, and become brittle over time. The surface of the varnish was riddled with small cracks.



Paper loss and wear, before



Paper loss and wear, after

A wooden dowel was attached to the top and bottom edges of the chart with iron tacks to enable the chart to be hung. In 2005, some of these tacks had given way and the chart separated from the top dowel and fell from the wall.



Discolored shellac, before



After removing shellac

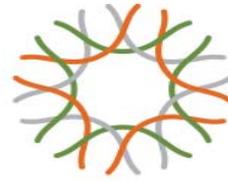
Gary E. Albright, an independent paper conservator located in Honeoye Falls, New York, executed the conservation. Mr. Albright has more than 30 years of experience in the conservation of paper and is a leading paper conservator in this country with an international reputation. He is a Fellow of the American Institute for Conservation.

Mr. Albright performed the following treatments:

- Photographed the object before and after treatment using 35-mm color slides.
- Removed the dowels from the top and bottom of the chart.
- Removed the varnish by bathing the chart in alcohol (mostly ethanol).
- Removed the two cloth backings, mechanically and with water.
- Washed the chart in water to remove paper discoloration and acidity.
- Adhered the chart to a new backing of Japanese paper (2 layers of medium weight kozo paper) and cotton muslin. Wheat starch paste was the adhesive. The chart was stretch dried. Tears were mended and losses filled by the Japanese paper backing.
- Areas of loss were toned to make them less obvious. In general, missing design elements were not reconstructed, except where it was obvious what was missing. Losses beneath the top and bottom dowels were generally not retouched.

Framing was done by Hull's Art Supply and Framing (New Haven). Due to the very large finished size of the framed wall chart, Hull's assembled the frame and completed the framing at the Peabody Museum. The wall chart is supported on archival quality foam board and matted with a Neilson Bainbridge Alphamat museum quality archival acid free and buffered mat board and topped with UV-absorbing Plexiglas.

All work was done in-house at Yale ITS Photo+Design. The camera used is a 4x5 inch Sinar with a 240mm Apo-Nikkor lens. The image was captured with a Betterlight Super6K scanning back in two parts, each 308 MB, which were then combined in Adobe Photoshop CS4. The resulting 582MB file produces a print the same size as the original (57x62 inch with margins) at 240 pixels per inch. Archival prints were made with an Epson 11880 printer on 60 inch Epson Ultrasmooth Fine Art paper with Epson Ultrachrome 3K archival pigment inks. Imaging was funded by the Yale Office of Digital Assets and Infrastructure.



CALIFORNIA
ACADEMY OF
SCIENCES

SPNHC 2011
Sustainable Museums - Sustainable Collections
A Joint Meeting of SPNHC and NSCA
23-28 May 2011
San Francisco, California

WELCOME

The California Academy of Sciences is pleased to host a joint meeting of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections and the Natural Science Collections Alliance. This will be the 26th annual meeting for SPNHC and the fourth time that we have been fortunate to host this meeting jointly with NSCA.

Initially our choice of themes was primarily based on the fact that we have a new “green” building to showcase (more on that later). Then, over the past two years, as most of our institutions have taken financial hits along with the economy, it became apparent that there was another meaning to our meeting theme. We hope to address the complicated issues of how we sustain our collections, our institutions, and, in fact, public interest in what we do during these difficult times.

THE CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

In 1853, the height of the California gold rush had passed, a quiet little port town named Yerba Buena had been renamed San Francisco, and its population had grown dramatically. On April 4, 1853, five short years after gold had been discovered in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, a group of seven men met to form the California Academy of Natural Sciences, the first scientific research institution west of the eastern seaboard. The Academy's first museum opened under the name of California Academy of Sciences, in 1874 in an area that is now part of San Francisco's Chinatown. The museum was quite popular and attracted so many visitors that in 1891 a new and larger building was built on Market Street.

In 1906, disaster struck the Academy and the city of San Francisco when an earthquake along the San Andreas Fault rocked the entire Bay Area. The quake was followed by a fire that consumed major parts of the city. The only items saved from the museum were books containing minutes of meetings, membership records, about 1500 botanical type specimens and one bird specimen. A decade later, a permanent site had been selected for a new museum in Golden Gate Park, and its first building - the North American Hall of Birds and Mammals - had opened. The original Steinhart Aquarium was built in 1923, and in 1934 Simson Africa Hall was added. After World War II, several more buildings were added.

By 1989, the Academy consisted of a mélange of a dozen buildings. Then a second “seismic event”, the Loma Prieta Earthquake, damaged Bird Hall and the Steinhart Aquarium to the extent that the entire complex needed to be replaced. In 2004, the collections were moved to a temporary building on Howard Street in downtown San Francisco, not far from the site of the building that was destroyed in 1906. The buildings in Golden Gate Park were demolished and construction on the new Academy building was begun in September 2005. On September 27, 2008 the new California Academy of Sciences opened to the public, billed as the “greenest museum in the world”. The building houses the Steinhart Aquarium, the (all digital) Morrison Planetarium, and the Kimball Natural History Museum, featuring a four-story rainforest exhibit, a living roof, a redesigned Africa Hall and many other permanent and temporary exhibits.

The Academy's 25 million research specimens are housed in 8 departments: Anthropology, Aquatic Biology, Botany, Entomology, Herpetology, Ichthyology, Invertebrate Zoology/Geology, and Ornithology/Mammalogy. In addition, the Academy's Aquarium staff care for more than 38,000 living organisms.

The Conference Venue

The SPNHC/NSCA meetings will be held at the Hotel Kabuki in the heart of San Francisco's Japantown. Here you will find scores of restaurants, shops, and the Japan Center, all of which will give you a taste of the unique cultural opportunities to be found in San Francisco. In addition, there is good access via public transportation to Chinatown, Union Square and the Financial District. Before attending the meeting, you might want to visit Japantown's website at: <http://www.sfjapantown.org> where you will find printable coupons for many nearby restaurants and businesses. The hotel offers serene Japanese-themed guest rooms with several unique amenities.

Field Trips and Workshops

We will be offering two full-day and four half-day field trips which highlight some of the wonderful activities the Bay Area has to offer.

Monterey Bay Aquarium

The Monterey Bay Aquarium is a state-of-the-art regional aquarium, a 2-hour bus trip south of San Francisco. You will travel down scenic Highway 1, along the Pacific Ocean. The first stop will be at Moss Landing Marine Laboratory where the staff will provide a tour of the facility before going on to Monterey. You will have free time in the middle of the day to get lunch on your own, and wander through the historical Cannery Row district. The return trip will be via a different route through the beautiful hills and valleys of the California Coast Range.

Wine Country, "Green Wineries"

Napa Valley is one of the premier travel destinations in the world with breathtaking views around every corner. We will be visiting Grgich Hills Estate, a biodynamic winery located in Rutherford, just north of the city of Napa. This is a family owned and operated winery committed to natural winegrowing and sustainability, with certified organic and Biodynamic® vineyards. You will have a tour of the vineyard and winery followed by a tasting.

You will also visit The Hess Collection, which is located in an historic stone winery building originally constructed in 1903. This winery is a leader in sustainable and organic practices, and you will be treated not only to a tour of the vineyards, winery and a wine tasting, but you will also have an opportunity to see Donald Hess' extensive private contemporary art museum. Lunch will be on your own in either downtown Napa or Yountville, where you can sample the local cuisine of your choice.

Birding the Chain of Lakes

Golden Gate Park provides habitat for a great diversity of bird life despite its position in an urban environment. The park is one of the largest urban parks in the nation, at more than 1019 acres. At least 200 species of both migrant and resident birds have been seen within the park's borders. The small lakes in Golden Gate Park offer a haven for many of these birds. These lakes and the shoreline bordering the park are some of the best places in San Francisco to look for birds. For this half-day field trip, you will spend the morning birding the Chain of Lakes in search of late spring migrants and breeding birds with their nests.

Cruise the Bay and Fisherman's Wharf

This trip begins with your trip leader providing information about the Bay, its origins and biology. Then you will board a tour boat for a 1-hour trip which will take you past the San Francisco skyline, toward the Golden Gate Bridge. Along the way you will see the Hyde Street Pier, the San Francisco Maritime National Park, Fort Mason, the Marina District, Crissy Field, the Presidio and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. The boat will sail directly under the Golden Gate Bridge before heading back into the bay past the Marin Headlands, the historic town of Sausalito, Angel Island State Park and the infamous Alcatraz.

San Francisco Arboretum and the Conservatory of Flowers

The Conservatory of Flowers, opened in 1879, is a wood and glass greenhouse, which is the oldest existing conservatory of its kind in the Western Hemisphere and an elegant piece of San Francisco's Victorian past. It is also a spectacular museum of rare and beautiful tropical plants, with over 1700 species from more than 50 countries. You will be treated to a guided tour by one of the Conservatory's excellent docent guides.

The San Francisco Botanical Garden (formerly Strybing Arboretum) covers 55 acres in Golden Gate Park, and boasts over 50,000 individual plants representing over 8,000 taxa from around the world. The mild climate in the Bay area allows the garden to cultivate a wide variety of Magnolia species, high elevation palms and cloud forest species from Central and South America and Southeast Asia. An excellent group of Arboretum docents will provide leadership for your tour through the garden.

*Continued from page 21:
.....SPNHC 2011*

Berkeley Natural History Museums

Our colleagues across the bay will be hosting tours of the museums located on the campus of the University of California, Berkeley.

- The University and Jepson Herbaria house more than 2 million plant specimens, along with libraries and archives. The University herbarium was established in 1895 and contains a worldwide collection of both vascular plants, cryptogams, algae and fungi. The Jepson Herbarium was established in 1950 and specializes in the vascular plants of California.
- The University of California Botanical Garden at Berkeley has over 12,000 taxa and 10,000 species from around the world. These include the most diverse collection of native California plants, representing about 30% of the recognized native flora. This 'living museum' has the largest collection of wild-collected plants with provenance in the country.
- The Museum of Vertebrate Zoology is home to 700,000 specimens of amphibians, reptiles, birds, bird eggs or nests, and mammals, as well as over 90,000 tissue samples.
- The UC Museum of Paleontology has the largest university paleontological collection in the world with collections representing organisms from prokaryotes to vertebrates collected from all continents.
- The Essig Museum of Entomology is a world-class terrestrial arthropod collection with a historical focus on surveying the insect fauna of California. Today that focus has broadened to include the eastern Pacific Rim and the islands of the Pacific Basin.

There will be three workshops, one pre-conference and two post-conference. The pre-conference workshop is a two day workshop on georeferencing to be held on the campus of UC Berkeley on the Saturday and Sunday before the meeting. The post-conference workshops on Imaging and on Poisons will be held at the Academy on the Saturday following the meetings.

The Program

The Plenary Session will be Wednesday, May 25th, with Dr. Craig Moritz of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at Berkeley as our keynote speaker. Immediately following the keynote address we will hear a panel discussion hosted by the Natural Science Collections Alliance, with the topic of Federal Science Policy and Collections.

During the afternoon, we will have presentations representing several national and international organizations who are involved in promoting, advocating for and/or supporting natural history collections and biodiversity research. We will be hearing about efforts from the following groups: 1) Canadensys, an initiative from the Council of Canadian Academies; 2) SYNTHESYS - a European Union-funded initiative; 3) SciColl - an international project of the Global Science Forum of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; and 4) IWGSC - the Interagency Working Group of Scientific Collections, an initiative of the Office of Science and Technology Policy in Washington.

On Thursday afternoon, back by popular demand will be the second and expanded edition of Demo Camp. This popular session will feature demonstrations of new computer technologies that are relevant to natural history scientists, collections managers or biodiversity information managers. These will be "live" demonstrations of collections/transaction management software, georeferencing web-based applications, interactive keys, and programs for analyzing data/images.

Paper and poster presentations will be on Thursday and Friday, with the Annual Business Meeting scheduled for the second half of the morning on Friday. Friday afternoon, we will go to the Academy for behind-the-scenes tours of the collections, research departments, the aquarium, and the living roof.

Social Events

The Ice Breaker Soirée will be held Tuesday, May 24, following the field trips, at the Hotel Kabuki. During Wednesday Wild, an evening reception being held in Africa Hall at the Academy, we will be able to roam the public floor and see the exhibits without fighting the daytime crowds. Thursday evening will be our traditional banquet and dance, at the Hotel Kabuki.

We hope that you are as excited about coming to our meeting as we are about hosting all of you, and having an opportunity to welcome you to our beautiful city and to our spectacular new museum! See you in May.

REGISTER NOW AT: <http://research.calacademy.org/spnhc>

The PITT® Pen, a Possible Option for Labeling Fossil Vertebrates

Amy Davidson

Senior Principal Preparator, Division of Paleontology, American Museum of Natural History, New York, NY; davidson@amnh.org

Marilyn Fox

Preparator, Division of Vertebrate Paleontology, Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History, New Haven, CT; marilyn.fox@yale.edu

Fossil vertebrates are usually labeled by writing the catalog number on each bone. This is important because each specimen may consist of anywhere from one to hundreds of individual bones or parts of bones which, if unlabeled, may easily be separated and confused. Because collections may exist for hundreds of years and be used by generations of researchers, legible, long lasting numbers are vital. Archival labels are usually applied using a base-coat and top-coat of Paraloid B-72 in acetone to sandwich ink numbers written with a dip (crow quill) or technical (e.g., Rapidograph®) pen. These are tried and true methods- the recommended inks are pigmented with lightfast carbon, have been tested (Williams and Hawks, 1986) and are presumed unlikely to change formula. However, technical pens, dip pens and open bottles of ink can be finicky, messy, and difficult to control. Both crow quill and Rapidograph® pens have a fairly high learning curve for competent use. Both must be held more or less vertically to work properly. This position can be difficult for some users, especially when writing on the irregular surfaces of fossil bones.

Collections workers have tried substituting disposable pens advertised as containing carbon pigmented ink, especially the Sakura Pigma® Micron® pen. The soft “felt” tip of a Pigma® pen is easier to control than the sharp tip of a crow quill pen, less easily damaged, less likely to scratch soft bone and less prone to stoppage and seepage than a Rapidograph® pen. Pigma® pens write well on paper and are widely accepted as “archival”, based on the manufacturer’s claims, on conducted tests (Wood and Williams, 1993) and assumptions that the ink formula has not changed. Unfortunately, Pigma® pens do not write well on Paraloid B-72 base-coats, typically take a long time to dry and are usually rendered illegible when top-coated with Paraloid B-72 in acetone. Some workers have tried using different resins and/or solvents for top-coating but this complicates, not simplifies, the process.

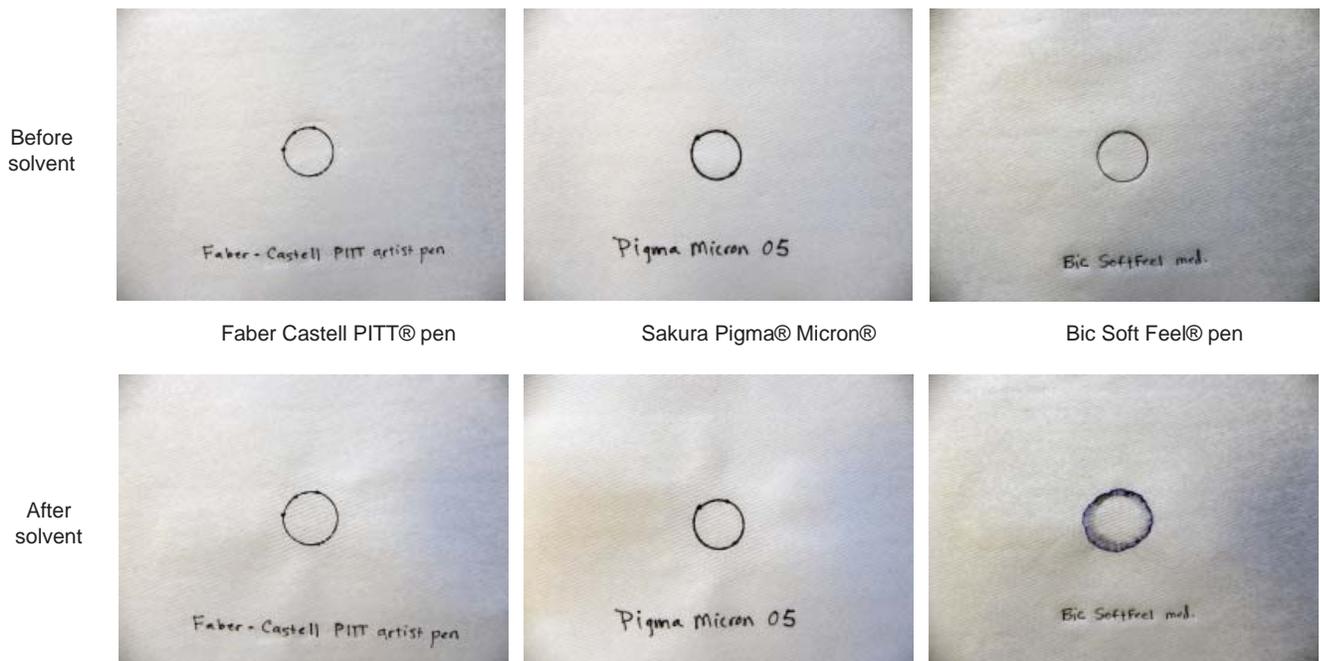
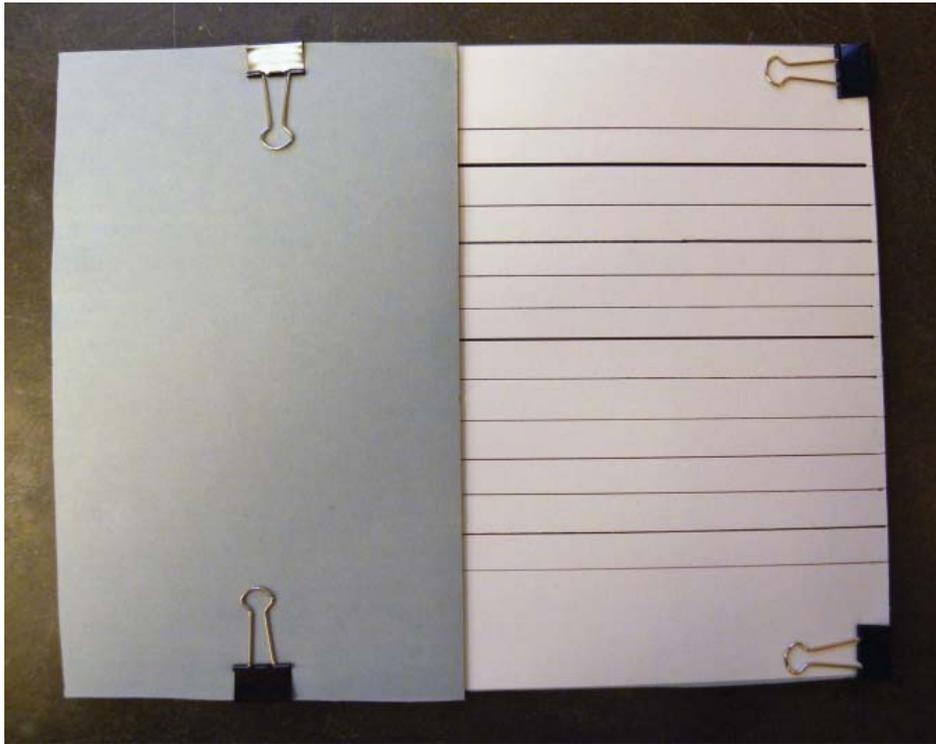


Figure 1. A simple solubility test for the presence of dye. A new, black Faber-Castell PITT® artist’s pen (XS nib) was used to draw a circle of 2 cm diameter on a white institutional paper towel. One drop of lab-grade ethyl alcohol was applied to the center and the effect compared with other new pens. Like the Sakura Pigma® Micron® pen (05 nib) and unlike the Bic Soft Feel® pen (medium), the PITT® pen did not run. This was repeated with acetone on both the PITT® and Pigma® pen circles with no visible effect.

Continued on page 24

Continued from page 23:
PITT pen

BEFORE EXPOSURE



AFTER 22 WEEKS EXPOSURE

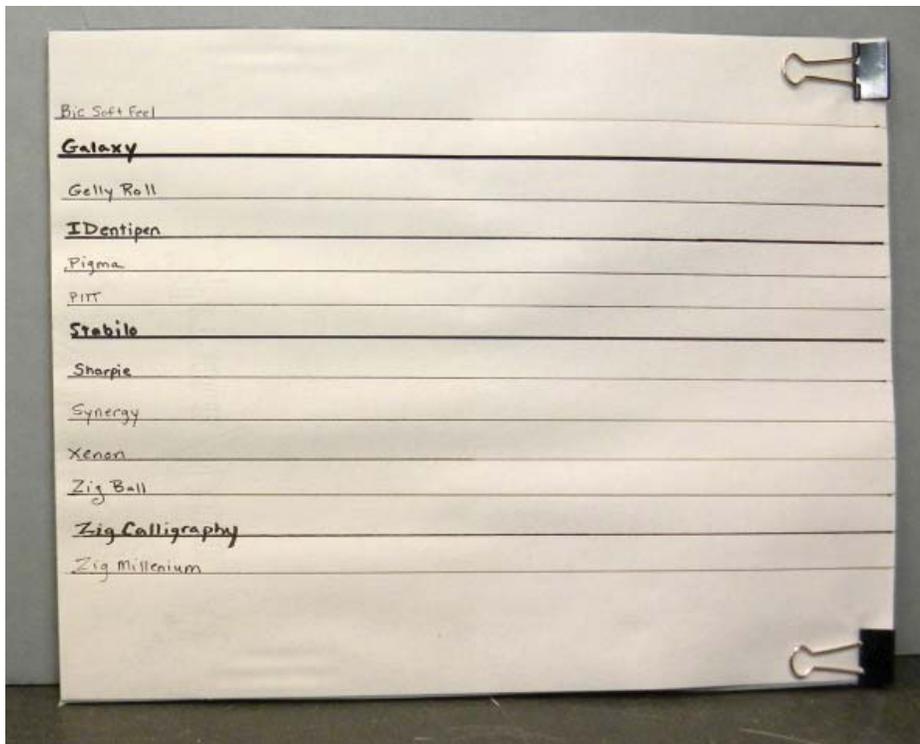


Figure 3. 22 weeks exposure to natural light. 13 new disposable pens were used to draw parallel lines on white Permabond® writing paper (25% cotton, acid-free). The name of each pen was written on the left end of each line. The paper was affixed to blue archival corrugated board with binder clips. A half-sheet of board was affixed to cover the left half of the paper. This was propped in a large, south-facing window. After 22 weeks the left half was uncovered and compared to the exposed right half. The Bic Soft Feel® had faded dramatically. The other pens, including the PITT® pen, appeared unchanged.

NO OVER-COAT

OVER-COATED

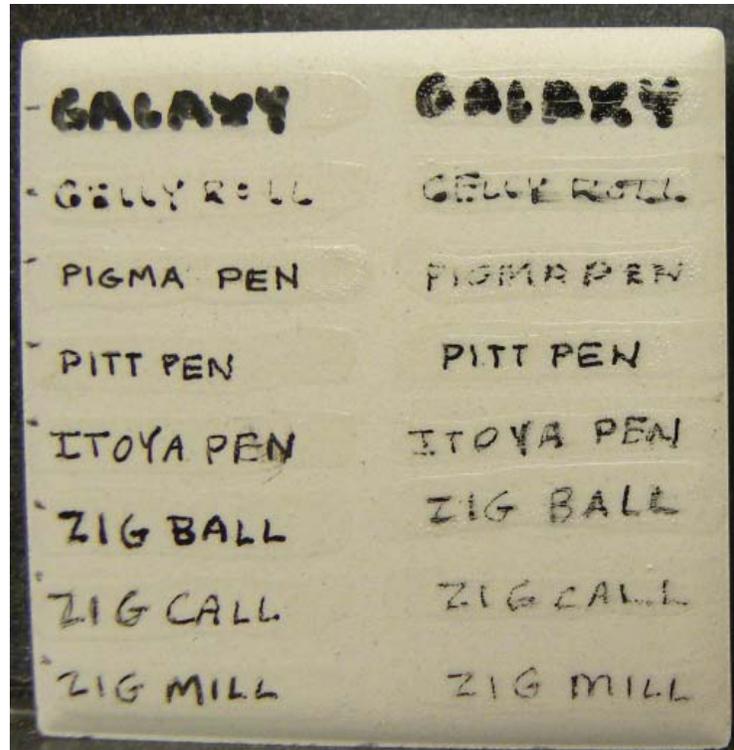


Figure 2. A base-coat / top-coat test. Using a brush, 20% (w/v) Paraloid B-72 in acetone was applied in 8 sets of double patches on a new white porcelain tile. After 10 minutes a second coat was applied to ensure a sealed surface. This dried until no longer tacky. The names of 8 new disposable pens were written in double sets on each base-coat patch and allowed to dry for 15 minutes. Each label in the right hand column was then over-coated using a heavily loaded brush with one stroke and without allowing the bristles to drag on the ink. Only the PITT® pen was not smeared and appeared unchanged.

A series of preliminary tests on another disposable felt-tip pen, the Faber-Castell PITT® artist's pen (black), indicate that this pen contains a pigmented, lightfast ink, writes well on the B-72 base-coat, dries quickly and may be top-coated with Paraloid B-72 in acetone without smearing. These tests included a simple solubility test (Fig. 1), a base-coat / top-coat test (Fig. 2) and 22 weeks exposure to natural light (Fig. 3).

Faber-Castell claims in their product literature that their black PITT® artist's pen contains "pigmented India ink". This seems to be corroborated by their recommendation that the pens be stored horizontally when not in use. They also claim that the ink is "extremely fade-resistant, smudge-proof, water-based but water-proof when dry and pH neutral". They particularly emphasize that the black pen has "maximum light-fastness= 7, 8 Blue Wool Scale". According to a Faber-Castell consumer relations representative, the ink is tested by exposing downstrokes to "CPS suntest xenon lamps (Atlas) in comparison to DIN 54004 (German Blue Wool Standard- comparable to US Blue Wool Standard)". The exposure time is 100 hours minimum (Michelle O'Meara, personal communication). The blue wool scale is a widely used method of monitoring light exposure using eight standards that fade at different rates. Substances that survive exposure as well or better than Standard 6 are considered to have a useful lifetime greater than 100 years

Continued on page 28

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SPNHC

ADVANCING COLLECTIONS CARE

28 February 2011

Dear SPNHC Member

Let your vote be counted at the SPNHC Annual Business Meeting on Friday 27 May 2011, at 11:00 am at the Hotel Kabuki, San Francisco, CA, USA.

You can't get to San Francisco? No problem! Make your vote count by assigning your proxy to someone else.

First, you and your proxy must be voting members of SPNHC. We will check your status when you send in this form, so don't worry about the details. However, you **MUST** send the hand-signed form to us by either mail or fax before 1 May 2011 so your form can be presented at the ABM. If you miss this deadline, your proxy voter may present this form to the SPNHC Secretary **NO LATER** than 11:00 am on Friday 27 May 2011.

Simply fill out the form (see adjacent page) to make your vote count!

Thanks!

Mail the form:
Judith C. Price
Secretary, SPNHC
Canadian Museum of Nature
PO Box 3443, Station D
Ottawa, ON K1P 6P4
Canada

OR Fax the form:
613 364-4027

NOTICE OF ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

The 26th Annual Business Meeting of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections will be held on Friday 27 May 2011, at 11:00 am at the Hotel Kabuki, San Francisco, CA, USA.

Please visit: <http://research.calacademy.org/spnhc>

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Minutes of the 2010 Annual Business Meeting
3. Report of the Treasurer
4. Report of Council meetings
5. Report of the President
6. Reports of the Standing Committees
7. Reports of the Sessional Committees
8. Unfinished Business
9. New Business
10. Recognition and Grants
11. Change of Office
12. Announcements
13. Adjournment

If you cannot attend the meeting, you may designate another member in good standing to act on your behalf. Please fill out the form of proxy below and give it to the person named or forward it by 1 May 2011 to:

Mail the form:	OR	Fax the form:
Judith C. Price		613 364-4027
Secretary, SPNHC		
Canadian Museum of Nature		
PO Box 3443, Station D		
Ottawa, ON K1P 6P4		
Canada		

INSTRUMENT OF PROXY

I, the undersigned member of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC), hereby appoint _____ (please name a SPNHC member in good standing who can represent your views at the meeting) or, failing him/her, Judith Price, Secretary of the Society, to vote on my behalf at the Annual Business Meeting of the Society on Friday 27 May 2011, at 11:00 am at the Hotel Kabuki, San Francisco, CA, USA.

Name (please print) _____ Date _____

Signature _____

Note: This form MUST carry a verifiable signature

Continued from page 25:
.....PITT pen

(Horie, 2010; Williams and Hawks, 1986).

Based on the manufacturer's claims and our preliminary test results, the Paleontology Division of the American Museum of Natural History and the Division of Vertebrate Paleontology at the Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History are currently experimenting with the PITT® pen. Until lightfastness can be firmly established, a conservative use may be to train volunteers in archival labeling philosophy and technique and to practice legible handwriting, using ceramic tiles and shards, scrap material and casts instead of real specimens.

We have not yet added the PITT® pen to our standard labeling kit but are considering doing so if we are able to: 1) more rigorously test lightfastness with blue wool standards using both artificial and natural light; 2) determine if the ink pigment is carbon. Because the ink is sandwiched between layers of B-72 and adhesion is not an issue, we feel that lightfastness is of primary importance. A lightfast, disposable felt-tip pen would be very useful in situations where the traditional pens are difficult to use, e.g., large scale labeling projects such as the integration of donated collections requiring large teams of variably skilled volunteers.

A responsible decision to use the PITT® pen on fossil vertebrates would be mindful of the following fact as noted by Williams and Hawks (1986): proprietary products are always subject to changes in formula (and properties) by the manufacturer. It is logical to conduct periodic tests on all inks used for archival labels. While it may not be practical to test every pen before use, a decision to use the PITT® pen to label fossil vertebrates would include a commitment to conduct lightfastness tests on incoming batches of pens.

References

Horie, C.V. 2010. *Materials for Conservation: Organic Consolidants, Adhesives and Coatings*, second edition. Elsevier Ltd.

Williams, S.L. and C.A. Hawks, 1986. Inks for documentation in vertebrate research collections. *Curator* 29:2. pp. 93-108.

Wood, R.N. and S. L. Williams, 1993. An Evaluation of Disposable Pens for Permanent Museum Records. *Curator* 36:3. pp. 189-200.

This space could be yours.....

SPNHC Newsletter is looking for articles, news items, etc., for the next edition. Articles of 1000 words or less considered. Contact Andy Bentley (abentley@ku.edu) for information. The deadline for submissions for the next issue is August 1, 2011.

Position Announcements

If you would like to submit job descriptions, please send postings to the Newsletter Editor. See the SPNHC web site, www.spnhc.org, for current postings.

Collection Manager, Recent Invertebrates: The Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History invites applications for the position of Collection Manager (Lab/Research Technician IV) in the Department of Recent Invertebrates. The position will provide assistance to existing staff (Curator, Collection Assistant, and Student Collection Assistants) in managing, maintaining, and facilitating use of entomological and other invertebrate specimens in the collection. Typical job functions include curation, sorting and identification, preservation and preparation, databasing, georeferencing, and processing and managing loans. The successful candidate is expected to (1) demonstrate an understanding of the methods and procedures required to perform the job, including the practices, standards, philosophy, and theory of collection stewardship; (2) improve their collection management knowledge, experience, skills, and/or abilities; and (3) participate in service to the Museum, museum community, university, and professional organizations at the local, state, regional, and national level.

In addition to the required education and experience, the applicant should preferably have experience in curation of entomological and/or invertebrate collections; general knowledge of the insects and invertebrates of the Great Plains and surrounding regions; working knowledge of georeferencing protocols and specimen-based electronic databases; and knowledge of accepted museum standards and practices for collection care, collections management, specimen conservation and preparation, and registration methods.

See Job Requisition Number 11073 on the OU Human Resources website (<http://jobs.ou.edu/hr>) for additional information, and required education, skills, and proficiencies. The position is full-time with benefits and is available immediately.

For further information, please contact Salina Wall, SNOMNH Human Resources Representative, at salinawall@ou.edu, or to learn more about the Museum, visit <http://www.snomnh.ou.edu/>.

Post-doctoral Position: Applications are invited for a post-doctoral position to work with Dr. Mehdi Moini at a recently established mass spectrometry and proteomics laboratory at the Smithsonian Museum Conservation Institute. The aim of the laboratory is to develop mass spectrometry and proteomics technologies relevant to museums' specimens. Projects include but are not limited to: species (fungus, etc.) and proteinaceous objects identification using metabolomics and proteomics techniques; biological dating using various MS techniques such as amino acid racemization; analysis of insoluble proteinaceous or polymeric materials; analysis of paints, inks, etc. using surface ionization techniques; as well as development of portable separation-mass spectrometry devices for onsite chemical/biological analysis. The successful applicant will have a Ph.D. in the area of separation, micro- and nanofabrication, mass spectrometry, and proteomics and an outstanding academic track record demonstrated by publications in refereed journals. Working experience with Thermo LTQ Orbitrap Veloes, ABI Qstar and 4700 TOF/TOF, as well as with capillary electrophoresis and 2D nano-LC is essential. Experience with DART and microfabrication of fluidic networks would be an advantage, but is not essential. The position is for one year, with a possibility of an extension for the second year and is available immediately, but applicants wishing to start at any time up to June 1, 2011 will be considered. The stipend for this position is \$40,000, with allowance for health insurance. Qualified applicants should send a letter of interest and resume, including lists of publications and references to Dr. Mehdi Moini (moinim@si.edu).

Science Education Specialist: The Michigan State University Museum seeks an entrepreneurial science education specialist to strengthen the Museum as a vibrant learning laboratory for all ages and to develop it as a portal for connecting audiences to the university's research activities. The MSU Museum is the cultural and natural science museum of Michigan State University, a land grant, research-intensive university located in East Lan-

sing, Michigan. The Museum is accredited by the American Association of Museums and is a Smithsonian Affiliate.

Duties:

- Develop informal educational products (including exhibits and digital products) for diverse audiences (university, elementary and high school students, and the general public).
- Develop and manage MSU MuseumPORTAL, a blended learning program connecting general audiences to contemporary research through exhibits, digital applications and distance learning.
- Build the Museum's educational capacities through productive relationships with faculty, university students, and education and museum sector.
- Conduct and publish research on learning through museum products, and work with evaluators to assess the effectiveness of educational programs.
- Secure grant and foundation support to enhance the Museum's educational and public programs.
- Manage projects and work teams of staff, students, contractors and partners.

Qualifications: Masters or Ph.D. in a relevant discipline; Ph.D. preferred.

Experience/personal qualities:

- Experience using diverse media to develop informal learning programs for a museum, science center, zoo, or similar organization; experience in STEM related programs preferred.
- Record of research and publications on informal learning (preferably in STEM fields); experience in informal science education assessment.
- Excellent interpersonal, and written and oral communication skills.
- Ability to work with diverse partners, including faculty, exhibit staff, and students.
- Record of success in obtaining external funding for education (preferably informal STEM education).
- Project management skills.

This is an annual appointment in the academic specialist system with the option of ongoing renewal. Salary will be commensurate with experience. The MSU Museum is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer. MSU is committed to achieving excellence through cultural diversity.

Submit cover letter addressing the above job requirements, resume, and three professional references to email jobs@museum.msu.edu or post to Education Specialist Recruitment, Michigan State University Museum, Room 103, West Circle Drive, East Lansing, MI 48824. Applications will be received until the position is filled.



SPNHC
ADVANCING COLLECTIONS CARE

Publications of Interest

This section is from the Citations Sub-committee of the Conservation Committee and is chaired by Margaret Landis. Citations were submitted by, Diana Dicus (DD), Margaret Landis (ML), Rebecca Peters (RP), Ann Pinzl (AP), John Simmons (JS), and Janet Waddington (JW). Contributions, suggestions, and comments may be submitted to Margaret Landis: Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, 2401 Chautauqua Ave. Norman, OK 73072, USA; (405) 325-8266 (voice); (405) 325-7699 (fax); paleocatstar@ou.edu.

Anonymous. 2010. Disclosure of all cleaning product ingredients: Court says no, disclosure says yes. *Acts Facts* 24(10):3-4. (DD)

Anonymous. 2010b. Ladder Safety: Everyone's Responsibility. *Fumigants & Pheromones* 96:6. (DD)
- Article from free quarterly newsletter for the insect control & pest management industry. Good reminders about basic ladder safety.

Anonymous. 2010c. New safety eyewear standard: Confusion over at last. *Acts Facts* 24(10):1-12. (DD)

Anonymous. 2010d. Specimens get new home. *Science* 329(5999):1581. (RP)
- Description of newly-opened wing of Berlin's Natural History Museum, during the institution's 200th anniversary celebration. The wing houses a collection of 1 million animal specimens preserved in alcohol (some dating to 1700s), lab space, and a viewing area where the public can see researchers at work.

Anonymous. 2010e. Straight talk about bleach. *Acts Facts* 24(12):3. (DD)

Anonymous. 2010f. Two bills for safer chemical policies introduced. *Acts Facts* 24(8):1-3. (DD)

Anonymous. 2010g. Who should use lead test kits? *Acts Facts* 24(11):1-2. (DD)

Anonymous. 2011a. Repeal the labeling of hazardous art materials act? *Acts Facts* 25(1):1-6. (DD)

Anonymous. 2011b. Rose is a rose is a rose. *Science* 331(6013):13. (RP)
- Kew and Missouri Botanic Gardens complete The Plant List (www.theplantlist.org), a searchable online compendium of all 1,040,426 plant species names.

Barker, C. S. 2010. How To Select Gloves: An Overview For Collections Staff. *Conserve O Gram* 1/12:1-5. (ML)
- <http://www.nps.gov/museum/publications/consveogram/01-12.pdf>

Bob, W. 2010. Mystery in a Bottle: Will the EPA Require Public Disclosure of Inert Pesticide Ingredients? *Environmental Health Perspectives* 118(4):A168-A171. (ML)

Bohannon, J. 2010. Google opens books to new cultural studies. *Science* 331(6011):1600. (RP)
- Mathematicians using Google Books to analyze the growth, change, and decline of published words over the centuries.

Bohannon, J. 2010. Why do scientists dance? *Science* 330(6005):752. (RP)
- Of particular interest to SPNHC banquet dancers: The results of the 2010 "Dance Your Ph.D." contest prompted the author to conduct an email survey of the scientists who have made Ph.D. dances during the three years the contest has run. He comments, "While taking stock of the Ph.D. dance phenomenon, I also did some historical research. Scientists have been interpreting their research with dance for much longer than you might think."

Bohannon, J. 2011. Books, Wikipedia, and the future of culturomics. *Science* 331(6014):135. (RP)
- Using Wikipedia and Google Books to analyze the fame of scientists whose names appear in books over the centuries.

Bolstad-Johnson, D. 2010. The hidden hazards of fire soot. *AIC News* 35(5):1-5. (DD)

Brinkman, P. D. 2010. Book Review: *The Earth on Show: Fossils and the Poetics of Popular Science, 1802-1856* by Ralph O'Connor. *Museum History Journal* 3(2):281-285. (JS)

Continued from page 29:

.....Pubs of Interest

- Camin, G. 2007. *Los Grandes Museos del Mundo*. Numen, Mexico City, Mexico. 304 pp. (JS)
 - Lavishly illustrated descriptions of 44 museums in 18 countries, including The Natural History Museum (UK), The Oceanographic Museum of Monaco, Museum of Arts and Science (Spain), the National Archaeological Museum (Greece), the Smithsonian (USA), and the National Museum of Anthropology (Mexico). [Spanish version of Museums: Masterpieces of Architecture in the World (Wonders of the World)].
- Camin, G. 2007. *Museums: Masterpieces of Architecture in the World (Wonders of the World)*. White Star, Vercelli, Italy. 304 pp. (JS)
 - Lavishly illustrated descriptions of 44 museums in 18 countries, including The Natural History Museum (UK), The Oceanographic Museum of Monaco, Museum of Arts and Science (Spain), the National Archaeological Museum (Greece), the Smithsonian (USA), and the National Museum of Anthropology (Mexico). [English version of Los Grandes Museos del Mundo].
- Chadefaux, C., C. Vignaud, E. Chalmin, J. Robles-Camacho, J. Arrroyo-Cabrales, E. Johnson and I. Reiche. 2009. Color origin and heat evidence of paleontological bones: Case study of blue and gray bones from San Josecito Cave, Mexico. *American Mineralogist* 94(1):27-33. (ML)
 - Investigation into why some fossils bones are blue from a mineralogical perspective, which will be useful for their preservation and study.
- Charola, A. E. and R. J. Koestler, eds. 2010. *Pesticide mitigation in museum collections: Science in conservation*. Proceedings from the MCI Workshop Series. Smithsonian Institution Scholarly Press, Washington, DC. 72 pp. (AP)
 - Includes appendix of organic compounds most commonly used as pesticides for museum collections.
- Christenhusz, M. J. M. 2010. Book Review: The Kew Plant Glossary, by Henk Beentje, with illustrations by Juliet Williamson. London: Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, 2010. *Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society* 164(4):440-441. (RP)
 - Book review of a new illustrated dictionary of plant terms.
- Clark, N. D. L. and C. Daly. 2010. Using confocal laser scanning microscopy to image trichome inclusions in amber. *Journal of Paleontological Techniques* 8: 1-7. (ML, JW)
 - <http://www.jpaleontologicaltechniques.org/pasta3/JPT%20N8/Bulletin.html> (27 January 2011).
- Coghlan, A. 2010. Half the world's plant names weeded out *New Scientist*: Online News. (ML)
 - <http://www.newscientist.com/article/dn19487-half-the-worlds-plant-names-weeded-out.html>. Almost half of the current names are no longer as they turned out to be the same species by different monikers.
- Colwell-Chanthaphonh, C., R. Maxson and J. Powell. 2011. The repatriation of culturally unidentifiable human remains *Museum Management and Curatorship* 26:27-43. (ML)
- Couttenier, M. 2010. "No documentation, no history" the moral, political, and historical sciences section of the Museum of the Belgian Congo, Teruven (1910-1948). *Museum History Journal* 3(2):123-146. (JS)
- Cruz, M. 2010. Exhibition: Six-legged fun: Insectos em Ordem [Insects in Order]. *Science* 330(6004):590. (RP)
 - Exhibit at the National Museum of Natural History and Centre for Environmental Biology, University of Lisbon. Visitors are invited to "become an entomologist for an hour by identifying insects according to their taxonomic order."
- Dahlbom, T. 2009. Matter of Fact: Biographies of Zoological Specimens. *Museum History Journal* 2(1):51-72. (ML)
 - Specimen histories are examined to show how they are used inside a collection, how and why they are used in producing knowledge, and how these functions of specimens may change over time.
- della Dora, V. 2010. Making mobile knowledges: The educational cruises of the *Revue Générale des Sciences Pures et Appliquées*, 1897–1914. *Isis* 101(3):467-500. (RP)
 - Of interest in terms of historical yet innovative ways to reach natural-history type audience, in this case, via educational cruises.
- Duff, W. M., J. M. Cherry and R. S. Sheffield. 2010. "Creating a better understanding of who we are": A survey of graduates of a museum studies program. *Museum Management and Curatorship* 25(4):361-381. (JW)
- Dunn, R. R. 2010. The next wave - What makes an invasive species tick? *Natural History* October:16-19 & 40. (AP)
 - Nice article ostensibly on ants and invasive species, but also provides a practical application for information in our holdings—the value of collections and older holdings in invasive species studies.
- Duyck, E. D. 2010. Digital Storage Media. *Conserve O Gram* 22/5:1-4. (ML)
 - <http://www.nps.gov/museum/publications/consveogram/22-05.pdf>.
- Espeland, M., M. Irestedt, K. A. Johanson, M. Åkerlund, B. Jan-Erik and M. Källersjö. 2010. Dichlorvos exposure impedes extraction and amplification of DNA from insects in museum collections. *Frontiers in Zoology* 7(2). <http://www.frontiersinzoology.com/content/7/1/2> (27 January 2011). (ML, JW)
 - Recommended on NHCOLL-L by Kjell Arne Johanson in regards to collection pest control and DNA quality.
- Finkel, E. 2010. Parlous times for seed banks spell trouble for Australian agriculture. *Science* 329(5999):1591. (RP)
 - Due to funding cuts, the Biloela Research Station (Queensland) which houses a 60-year-old collection of crop and forage plant seeds, will close.
- Goltza, D., M. Attas, G. Young, E. Cloutisd and M. Bedynskie. 2010. Assessing stains on historical documents using hyperspectral imaging. *Journal of Cultural Heritage* 11(1):19-26. (ML)
- Hancock, E. G., G. V. Brown and B. Jowett. 2011. Pinned Down - The Role of Pins in the Evolution of Eighteenth-Century Museum Insect Collections. *Museum History Journal* 4(1):29-46. (ML)
 - Includes metallurgical analysis of some of the pins used in early entomological collections.
- Hatchfield, P. 2011. Crack, warp, shrink, flake: A new look at conservation standards. *Museum* Jan-Feb:40-43; 51-53. (AP, JW)
 - Re-examines the practicality of trying to maintain T and RH standards and suggests possibly expanding the guidelines.
- Hazen, R. M., D. Papineau, W. Bleeker, R. T. Downs, J. M. Ferry, T. J. McCoy, D. A. Sverjensky and H. Yang. 2008. Mineral evolution. *American Mineralogist* 93(11-12):1693-1720. (ML)
 - Mineral kingdom has co-evolved with life and it is thought that up to 2/3 of the more than 4,000 known types of minerals on Earth can be directly or indirectly linked to biological activity...another way for us to justify our collections.
- Heckman, H. 2010. Burn After Viewing, or, Fire in the Vaults: Nitrate Decomposition and Combustibility. *American Archivist* 73(2):483-506. (ML)
- Hehmeyer, I. 2010. Book Review: *Eastern Astrolabes* by David Pingree. (Historic Scientific Instruments of the Adler Planetarium and Astronomy Museum) Chicago: Adler Planetarium and Astronomy Museum, 2009. *Isis* 101(3):635-636. (RP)
 - Book review; Pingree describes Eastern astrolabes from Chicago's Adler Planetarium and Astronomy Museum collection. [Astrolabes are "devices for astronomical observation and measurement...designed to measure the altitude of the celestial bodies....for telling time, both

- by night and by day.”]
- Henry, J. P. 2010. 20 years and counting. *Museum* November-December:50-57. (JW)
- Looks back at 20 years of NAGPRA (Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act).
- Honey, J. and G. McDonald. 2010. Preparing and Storing Geological Drill Cores. *Conserve O Gram* 11/16:1-4. (ML)
- <http://www.nps.gov/museum/publications/consveogram/11-16.pdf>
- Ilerbaig, J. 2010. Specimens as Records: Scientific Practice and Record-keeping in Natural History Research. *American Archivist* 73(2):463-482. (ML)
- Jackson, L. U. and D. C. Thompson. 2010. But You Promised: A Case Study of Deaccessioning at the American Heritage Center, University of Wyoming. *American Archivist* 73(2):669-685. (ML)
- Kelley, P. 2009. Preserving Our History: Forever is a Long Time. *Fumigants & Pheromones* 93:7. (DD)
- <http://www.insectslimited.com/docs/Issue%2095.pdf>. Article from free quarterly newsletter for the insect control and pest management industry on Integrated Pest Management (IPM).
- Kelley, P. 2010a. Preserving Our History: Barrier Films vs. The Bugs. *Fumigants & Pheromones* 95:7. (DD)
- <http://www.insectslimited.com/docs/Issue%2095.pdf>. Article from free quarterly newsletter for the insect control and pest management industry.
- Kelley, P. 2010b. Preserving our history: Freezing infested materials. *Fumigants & Pheromones* 97:5. (DD)
- <http://www.insectslimited.com/files/12/Issue%2097.pdf>. Article from free quarterly newsletter for the insect control and pest management industry.
- Kelley, P. 2010c. Preserving Our History: Pheromones...Am I drawing insects into my collections? *Fumigants & Pheromones* 96:7. (DD)
- <http://www.insectslimited.com/files/7/Issue%2096%20FINAL.pdf>. Article from free quarterly newsletter for the insect control and pest management industry.
- Kelly, L. 2010. How Web 2.0 is changing the nature of museum work. *Curator: The Museum Journal* 53(4):50-57. (JW)
- Kloor, K. 2010a. Podcast interview transcript: Giving back the bones. *Science* 330(6001):166. (RP)
- Interview with Stephen Lekson, curator of anthropology at the University of Colorado's Museum of Natural History. Lekson has overseen the repatriation of 553 human remains and 800 funerary objects to southwestern tribes.
- Kloor, K. 2010b. Walking in two worlds. *Science* 330(6001):168-169. (RP)
- Native American archaeologists can be torn between their culture and their profession.
- Landim, M. I. and E. Hingst-Zaher. 2010. Brazil's biodiversity crisis - Natural history collections are vital to preserving Brazil's biomes. *ICOM News* 63(2):10-11. (AP)
- Lauf, R. J. 2010. Flat Specimen Photography Using a Flatbed Scanner. *Rocks and Minerals* 85(5):446-449. (ML)
- Using a flatbed scanner to capture mineral and rock "photographs."
- Lawler, A. 2010a. Grave disputes. *Science* 330(6001):166-170. (RP)
- Although U.S. legislation requiring the return of Native American remains to tribes has been in effect for ~20 years, controversies continue over implementation.
- Lawler, A. 2010b. A tale of two skeletons. *Science* 330(6001):171-172. (RP)
- Lawler cites an example of 2 cultures collaborating.
- Lawler, A. 2010c. A world of graves. *Science* 330(6001):170. (RP)
- Different cultures have divergent views on ancestors' remains.
- Lyman, R. L. 2010. Paleozoology's Dependence on Natural History Collections. *Journal of Ethnobiology* 30(1):126-136. (ML)
- Recommended on NHCOLL-L by Barry W. Baker in regards to valuation of collections.
- Mueller, D. 2009. The Dose Makes the Poison. *Fumigants & Pheromones* 93:6. (DD)
- <http://www.insectslimited.com/docs/Issue%2093.pdf>. Article from free quarterly newsletter for the insect control and pest management industry.
- Mueller, D. K. 2010. Mice: Excerpt from reducing customer complaints in stored products. *Fumigants & Pheromones* 97:1. (DD)
- <http://www.insectslimited.com/files/12/Issue%2097.pdf>. Article from free quarterly newsletter for the insect control and pest management industry.
- Parfitt, T. 2010. Pavlovsk's hopes hang on a tweet. *Science* 329(5994):899. (RP)
- A Russian research center with a unique collection (gene bank of thousands of European fruit and berry crops) threatened by proposed development was the topic of a "tweet" sent out by Russian President Dmitry Medvedev. Global Crop Diversity Trust (GCDDT) in Rome is working with the Vavilov Institute to translate and digitize its records and hopes to add them to Genesys, a software system giving access to information from gene banks all over the world.
- Pennisi, E. 2010. Tending the global garden. *Science* 329(5997):1274-1277. (RP)
- More than 400 plant taxonomists prepared a comprehensive plant list (41K species) to further Brazil's 2002 international plant conservation initiative. Brazil now has this information available online. Kew and Missouri Botanical Garden are mentioned.
- Pezzey, S., I. Simmons and H. White. 2010. Exhibition critiques: The Darwin Centre at the Natural History Museum, London. *Exhibitionist* 29(2):87-95. (JS)
- 3 contrasting visitor reviews of the 2 new collection storage wings of The Natural History Museum in London.
- Phelps, J., E. L. Webb, D. Bickford, V. Nijman and N. S. Sodhil. 2010. Boosting CITES. *Science* 330(6012):1752-1753. (RP)
- To protect biodiversity, more, improved biological and trade data and analyses are needed. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) now has 175 member countries regulating the trade of nearly 34,000 species.
- Pires, D. 2010. Cenozoic L.A. stories. *Science* 330(6000):37. (RP)
- Positive review of the new Age of Mammals hall at Los Angeles County Natural History Museum.
- Plumb, C. 2010. "In fact, one cannot see it without laughing". The spectacle of the kangaroo in London, 1770-1830. *Museum History Journal* 3(1):7-32. (JS)
- Pringle, H. 2010. Using old insects to sleuth out new clues to ancient cultures. *Science* 330(6005):752-753. (RP)
- Archaeologists are using entomological information to learn details about life in ancient times.
- Rakovan, J. 2010. Word to the Wise: Materials Mineralogy. *Rocks and Minerals* 85(4):352-357. (ML)
- <http://www.rocksandminerals.org/Back%20Issues/2010/July-August%202010/word-to-wise-abstract.html>; Synthetic analogues of long-known minerals, and in some cases, the natural materials them-

Continued from page 31:

.....Pubs of Interest

- selves, are quickly establishing a place of importance in today's high-tech world.
- Ravenel, N. 2010. Pemulen® TR-2: An Emulsifying Agent with Promise. WAAC (Western Association for Art Conservation) Newsletter 32(3):10-12. (DD)
- Roane, T. M. and L. J. Snelling. 2010. Bacterial removal of mercury from museum materials: A new remediation technology? Pp. 29-34 in *Pesticide mitigation in museum collections: Science in conservation*. Proceedings from the MCI Workshop Series (Charola, A. E. and R. J. Koestler eds.). Smithsonian Institution Scholarly Press, Washington, DC. (AP)
- Rossol, M. 2010. Reform of the MSDS is Coming. WAAC (Western Association for Art Conservation) Newsletter 32(1):18-19. (ML)
- Schaller, P. 2010a. Elements of Successful Collections Management: Part 6 - Numbering Museum Artifacts: New Innovations. Collections Research News Summer:1-2. (DD)
- <http://museumcollectionmgmt.com/Summer2010.pdf>
- Schaller, P. 2010b. Elements of Successful Collections Management: Part 7 - The importance of periodic inventories. Collections Research News Fall:1-2. (DD)
- <http://museumcollectionmgmt.com/Fall2010>
- Spicer, G. 2010. Defying gravity with magnetism. AIC News 35(6):1-5. (DD)
- Stavroudis, C. 2010. Using Pemulen® with the MCP. WAAC (Western Association for Art Conservation) Newsletter 32(3):16. (DD)
- Stone, R. 2010. China clamps down on illegal fossil trading. Science 329(5998):1453. (RP)
- China's State Council issued a regulation last week protecting the country's fossil beds and changing the way permits are issued. Fossils were declared state property.
- Strand, J. 2010. 20 Years and counting: James Pepper Henry's multifaceted view of NAGPRA. Museum News Nov-Dec:50-57. (AP)
- Travers, K., R. Wolbers and C. Tomkiewicz. 2010. Pemulen® Case Study: Holy Innocents Mural Project. WAAC (Western Association for Art Conservation) Newsletter 32(3):13-14. (DD)
- Travis, J. 2010. In search of Sitting Bull; and Honoring his ancestor by studying his DNA. Science 330(6001):172-173. (RP)
- DNA research in relation to Sitting Bull and his descendents.
- van der Burg, J. 2010. Preventive conservation, a deliberate choice. E-conservation magazine 14: 22-26. <http://www.e-conservationline.com/content/view/911/309> (04 August 2010). (ML)
- VanRyckeghem, A. 2010. Bad Bugs...Brown Recluse Spider (*Loxosceles reclusa*). Fumigants & Pheromones 97:2.
- <http://www.insectslimited.com/files/12/Issue%2097.pdf>. Article from free quarterly newsletter for the insect control and pest management industry.
- Veirum, N. E. and M. F. Christensen. 2011. If it's not on the Net it doesn't exist. Museum Management and Curatorship 26(1):3-9. (JW)
- Looks at internet penetration in Denmark and the impact of the internet on museums' interaction with their communities.
- Were, G. 2010. Re-engaging the university museum: knowledge, collections and communities at University College London. Museum Management and Curatorship 25(3):291-304. (ML, JW)
- Looks at institutional attitudes toward teaching collections versus research collections.
- White, C., M. Pool and N. Carroll. 2010. Short communication: A revised method to calculate desalination rates and improve data resolution. Journal of the American Institute for Conservation 49:45-52. (DD)
- Whitney, D. L. and B. W. Evans. 2010. Abbreviations for names of rock-forming minerals. American Mineralogist 95(1):185-187. (ML)
- Williams, D. 2010. Pemulen® case study: A midsummer-night's dream. WAAC (Western Association for Art Conservation) Newsletter 32(3):14-15. (DD)
- Wilson, W. E. and D. Newsome. 2010. Recommendations regarding the handling and sale of your collection. Mineralogical Record 41(6):553. (JW)
- Wilson recommends ways on handling and sale of one's mineral collection. The primary recommendation is that the owner should liquidate his collection himself, while he is still able, rather than leave it to an executor.
- Zephir, M. C. 2010. Care and Identification of Objects Made from Plastic. Conserve O Gram 8/4:1-6. (ML)
- <http://www.nps.gov/museum/publications/consveogram/08-04.pdf>
- Zomlefer, W. B. 2010. Survey of the herbaria of Georgia. Tipularia 25:3-40. (AP)
- Contains information about the operation and history of several herbaria.

Calendar of Events

The Calendar of Events is maintained by Christine Chandler of the Documentation Committee. Application deadlines, conferences and symposia relevant to collection management, computerization and conservation of natural history collections are listed. Notices may be submitted to Christine at Putnam Museum of History and Natural Science, 1717 West 12th Street, Davenport, IA 52804; (563) 324-1054 ext. 226; chandler@putnam.org or dinoceras@juno.com.

2011

February 2011

February 1, 2011. National Leadership Grants deadline. Details at <http://www.imls.gov>.

February 17, 2011. Juggling Balls and other High Wire Acts: How a Well-Crafted Collections Management Policy Can be the Safety Net that Saves Your Collections, a live webinar, 2:00-3:15 PM ET, from the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH). Register at <http://www.aaslhnetwork.org/steps2011>.

February 20-22, 2011. Small Museum Association Annual Conference, Ocean City, Maryland, USA. For more information, go to: <http://www.smallmuseum.org>; <http://facebook.com/smallmuseumassociation>; or <http://www.smallmuseumassociation.blogspot.com>.

March 2011

March 15, 2011. 21st Century Museum Professionals Grants deadline. Details at <http://www.imls.gov>.

March 22-24, 2011. ALI-ABA course of study, Legal Issues in Museum Administration, Washington, D.C., USA. Details at <http://www.ali-aba.org>.

March 23, 2011. AAM Professional Development webinar in collaboration with MAP, The Basics of Developing a Collections Management Policy. Description and details are available at <http://www.aam-us.org>.

April 2011

April 1, 2011. Native American/Native Hawaiian Museum Services Program Grants deadline. Details at <http://www.imls.gov>.

April 6-7, 2011. The Art of Science Learning Conferences 2011, at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, Washington, D.C., USA. For more information, check out: <http://www.artofsciencelearning.org>; <http://on.fb.me/ebRMYu>; <http://twitter.com/artstem>; or contact David Green at dgreen@artofsciencelearning.org. A flier is available at <http://artofsciencelearning.org/images/FLIERS/museums.pdf>.

April 6-9, 2011. Museums and the Web 2011 (MW2011), Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA. Go to <http://conference.archimuse.com/mw2011> for more information.

May 2011

May 4, 2011. AAM Professional Development webinar in collaboration with PRAM, Disaster Preparedness 2011: Planning for Crisis Communications. Description and details are available at <http://www.aam-us.org>.

May 15-20, 2011. DigCCurr Professional Institute: Curation Practices for the Digital Object Lifecycle, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, North Carolina, USA. Institute session continues January 4-6, 2012 (one price for two sessions). Visit <http://ils.unc.edu/digccurr/institute.html> for more information.

May 16-17, 2011. The Art of Science Learning Conferences 2011, at the Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, Illinois, USA. For more information, check out: <http://www.artofsciencelearning.org>; <http://on.fb.me/ebRMYu>; <http://twitter.com/artstem>; or contact David Green at dgreen@artofsciencelearning.org. A flier is available at <http://artofsciencelearning.org/images/FLIERS/museums.pdf>.

May 21, 2011. Save America's Treasures Grants deadline. Details at <http://www.imls.gov>.

May 21, 2011. 2011 Association of Academic Museums

and Galleries (AAMG) Annual Conference, Houston, Texas, USA. For more information, go to <http://www.aamg-us.org>.

May 22-25, 2011. AAM Annual Meeting and MuseumExpo™, Houston, Texas, USA. For details, go to <http://www.aam-us.org/am11>.

May 23-28, 2011. Sustainable Museums – Sustaining Collections, Joint Meeting of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC) and the Natural Science Collections Alliance (NSCA), hosted by the California Academy of Sciences (CAS), San Francisco, California, USA. Meeting website: <http://research.calacademy.org/sp-nhc>.

June 2011

June 14-15, 2011. The Art of Science Learning Conferences 2011, at the California Institute of Telecommunications and Information Technology, University of San Diego, San Diego, California, USA. For more information, check out: <http://www.artofsciencelearning.org>; <http://on.fb.me/ebRMYu>; <http://twitter.com/artstem>; or contact David Green at dgreen@artofsciencelearning.org. A flier is available at <http://artofsciencelearning.org/images/FLIERS/museums.pdf>.

June 24-29, 2011. 91st Annual Meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists, a Joint Meeting with the Australian Mammal Society, Portland State University, Portland, Oregon, USA. Meeting details at <http://asm2011.research.pdx.edu>.

July 2011

July 6-11, 2011. American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (ASIH) Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA. For details, go to <http://www.asih.org/annualmeetings>.

July 9-13, 2011. Botany 2011, Joint Annual Meeting of the Society for Economic Botany (SEB), American Bryological and Lichenological Society (ABLS), American Fern Society (AFS), American Society of Plant Taxonomists (ASPT) and the Botanical Society of America (BSA), St. Louis, Missouri, USA. More information is available at the ASPT website: <http://www.aspt.net/meeting>.

July 12, 2011. Advances in Biological Informatics (ABI) Grants deadline. Go to <http://www.nsf.gov> for more information.

July 23-30, 2011. XVIII International Botanical Congress (IBC2011), held under the auspices of the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS), through the International Association of Botanical and Mycological Societies (IABMS) of the IUBS, Melbourne, Australia. For more information check out the meeting website at <http://www.abc2011.com>.

July 20, 2011. AAM Professional Development webinar in

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.....Calendar of Events

collaboration with PACIN and LearningTimes, Best Practices for Handling Objects. Description and details are available at <http://www.aam-us.org>.

July 24-27, 2011. Museumpalooza! Celebrating Cultural Institutions and Communities, Association of Midwest Museums (AMM) 2011 Meeting, joint conference with both the Visitors Studies Association (VSA) and the Illinois Association of Museums (IAM), Chicago, Illinois, USA. Details at <http://www.midwestmuseums.org>.

July 24-29, 2011. 129th Stated Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union, Jacksonville, Florida, USA. Details at <http://www.aou.org>.

September 2011

September 14-16, 2011. International Symposium and Workshop on Cultural Property Risk Analysis at the Faculdade de Ciencias e Tecnologia da Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Lisbon, Portugal, held in association with the ICOM-CC Preventive Conservation Working Group and sponsored by the Society for Risk Analysis. View details at the symposium website, <http://www.protectheritage.com/Lisbon2011>.

September 15, 2011. American Heritage Preservation Grants deadline. Details at <http://www.ims.gov>.

September 23-26, 2011. 76th Annual Meeting of the Western Museums Association, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA. Check <http://westmuse.wordpress.com> for updates.

October 2011

October 1, 2011. Conservation Project Support Grants deadline. Details at <http://www.ims.gov>.

October 9-12, 2011. A Meeting of the Muses: Inspiration, Strategy, and Sustainability, 2011 Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums Annual Meeting, Baltimore, Maryland, USA. For more information, go to <http://www.midatlanticmuseums.org>.

October 9-12, 2011. 2011 GSA Annual Meeting & Exposition, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA. Information about this and other section meetings is available at <http://www.geosociety.org/meetings>.

October 15-18, 2011. ASTC 2011, Maryland Science Center, Baltimore, Maryland, USA. Go to <http://www.astc.org/conference/future.htm> for more information.

October 17-21, 2011. Symposium 2011 – Adhesives and Consolidants for Conservation: Research and Applications, hosted by the Canadian Conservation Institute in partnership with Library and Archives Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. Deadline: November 1, 2010. For more information see: <http://www.cci-icc.gc.ca/symposium/2011/index-eng.aspx>.

October 17-21, 2011. Mountain-Plains Museums Association 2011 Annual Conference, Helena, Montana, USA.

October 25-27, 2011. Southeastern Museums Conference (SEMC) 2011 Annual Meeting, Greenville, South Carolina, USA. More information is available at <http://www.semcdirect.net>.

November 2011

November 1, 2011. Museums for America Grants deadline. Details at <http://www.ims.gov>.

November 2-5, 2011. Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (SVP) 71st Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, Nevada, USA. For more information, go to <http://www.vertpaleo.org/meetings/>.

November 13-16, 2011. Entomology 2011, Entomological Society of America (ESA) 59th Annual Meeting, Reno, Nevada, USA. Meeting details are available at <http://www.entsoc.org/entomology2011>.

November 15, 2011. Sparks! Ignition Grants deadline. Details at <http://www.ims.gov>.

November 16-18, 2011. Museums in the Mirror, Reflecting Relevance in a Diverse Society, 2011 New England Museum Association (NEMA) Annual Meeting, Hartford, Connecticut, USA. For more information, go to <http://www.nemanet.org>.

December 2011

December 1, 2011. Conservation Assessment Program Grants deadline. Details at <http://www.ims.gov>.

December 15, 2011. Connecting to Collections: Statewide Implementation Grants deadline. Details at <http://www.ims.gov>.

2012

Summer 2012

June 11-16, 2012. Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC) 27th Annual Meeting, Yale Peabody Museum, New Haven, Connecticut, USA.

July 7-11, 2012. Botany 2012, Columbus, Ohio, USA.

Fall 2012

October 17-20, 2012. Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (SVP) 72nd Annual Meeting, Raleigh, North Carolina, USA. For more information, go to <http://www.vertpaleo.org/meetings/>.

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President Requests \$242,605,000 for Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)

Washington, DC - President Obama has requested \$242,605,000 for fiscal year 2012 for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

“Rapid societal shifts are challenging museums and libraries to reinvent themselves. With this budget, IMLS is rigorously examining all of its grant programs, research, and leadership initiatives to ensure that every dollar is helping libraries and museums meet this challenge,” said Susan Hildreth, director of IMLS. “In a world where the ability to access and use information is essential to competitiveness, IMLS must help frontline institutions use new technology, adapt services to meet the needs of today’s information seekers, and work in partnership with a host of community organizations.”

The years ahead will be critical ones for the nation’s libraries and museums; strategic leadership is needed to shape programs and services to most effectively meet community needs. The reauthorization of the Museum and Library Services Act of 2010 passed with broad bi-partisan support in Congress and signed by President Obama on December 23, 2010, provides an important roadmap for the work ahead and emphasizes education; economic, community and workforce development; civic engagement; and many other national priorities.

Museum Programs

For IMLS museum programs, the President requested \$32,318,000 for the following grant programs:

- Museums for America (<http://www.ims.gov/applicants/grants/forAmerica.shtm>), a program that strengthens museums as active resources for lifelong learning and as community assets.
- The 21st Century Museum Professionals (<http://www.ims.gov/applicants/grants/21centuryMuseums.shtm>) program, which supports projects that address the preparation of museum professionals for the future by updating and expanding their knowledge and skills.
- The Conservation Project Support (<http://www.ims.gov/applicants/grants/conservProject.shtm>) program, which helps museums identify conservation needs and priorities and perform activities to ensure the safekeeping of their collections.
- National Leadership Grants (<http://www.ims.gov/applicants/grants/nationalLeadership.shtm>) to support creation of new tools, research, models, services, practices.
- The Conservation Assessment (<http://www.ims.gov/applicants/grants/conservAssessment.shtm>) Program and the Museum Assessment Program are now incorporated under National Leadership Grants.
- The Native American and Native Hawaiian Museum Services (<http://www.ims.gov/applicants/grants/nativeServices.shtm>) program, which enables Native American tribes, Alaska Native villages or corporations, and organizations that primarily serve Native Hawaiians to benefit their communities and audiences through strengthened museum services.
- The Museum Grants for African American History and Culture (<http://www.ims.gov/applicants/grants/AfricanAmerican.shtm>) program, which builds professional capacity in the African American museum community.

The IMLS FY2012 Congressional Justification (http://www.ims.gov/pdf/FY12_CJ.pdf) and a detailed table of President Obama’s budget request (http://www.ims.gov/pdf/01-11_AppropriationsTable.pdf - PDF, 57KB) for IMLS with recent budget history accompanies this release.