

Program Chair's Foreword

The 2011 AIC annual meeting in Philadelphia, PA, offered an opportunity to showcase the tremendous range of issues with which objects conservators regularly engage. The session consisted of a total of eighteen papers and a luncheon over a period of three days, and aimed to look broadly across the Objects Specialty Group (OSG) to define some of the pressing challenges of contemporary conservation practice.

The first afternoon session, on May 18th, was dedicated to issues of archaeological conservation—both in the field and in the museum. The session began with a luncheon co-sponsored by OSG and the Archaeological Discussion Group and featured a lively set of presentations on the ethics of archaeological conservation by Dr. Nancy Odegaard, Harriet Beaubien, Eric Nordgren, and Angelyn Bass. The rest of the afternoon was enriched by papers on research and decision-making in archaeological fieldwork by Donna Strahan, Harriet Beaubien, and Emily Williams, who work in field contexts including the Granicus Valley in Turkey, various sites in Central America, and Colonial Williamsburg, respectively. Suzanne Davis and Claudia Chemello discussed their findings about the nature of collaborations between conservators and archaeologists, while Susanne Grieve spoke of the complex issues raised by collaborations between conservators and members of the public. Finally, Ariel O'Connor presented an elaborate conservation treatment on archaeological glass from Nimrud now in a museum context.

The morning session on May 19th focused on the social impact of conservation treatments and collaborations, and considered the importance of the intangible aspects of the objects that conservators are often called upon to conserve. This session looked at the use and renewal of objects and the relationships they make possible through the conservation process. Truly international in scope, the session began at the Australian Museum with Vinod Daniel's and Don Peita's paper on Pacific Islander collections. Next, Ainslie Harrison, Chuna McIntyre, Kelly McHugh and Landis Smith discussed their successful collaboration in preparation for the Smithsonian's Arctic Studies Center exhibit. Shabnam Honarbakhsh, Heidi Swierenga and Mauray Toutloff delved into the new kinds of access made possible by the reinstallation of the University of British Columbia's Museum of Anthropology's collection. Victor Sobhani and Sonjel Vreeland discussed the religious and cultural aspects of conserving historical objects of the Baha'i faith, while Dr. Sujeong Lee chronicled the myriad challenges of envisioning and drafting a conservation code of ethics for Korea. The final paper of the session, presented by Stephanie Hornbeck, looked at the international and local efforts to conserve Haiti's cultural heritage after the devastation of the 2010 earthquake.

The final part of the OSG session, held on May 20th, began with three papers on conservation issues in modern and contemporary art. Christel Pesme questioned the various conceptual and conservation changes made to a work by Joseph Beuys in the Centre Pompidou, Paris. Gwynne Ryan discussed the challenges of the conservator specializing in contemporary art. The paper by Eleonara Nagy, Bettina Landgrebe and Shelley Smith considered the material but also conceptual issues associated with retaining or replacing original components of works by Donald Judd. The second half of this session looked further at material and research approaches to

conservation treatments. Lori Trusheim's paper discussed how her decisions on how to conserve an 18th century object required extensive contemplation of the AIC Code of Ethics. Tony Sigel's paper outlined the multiple stages of analysis and decision making that led to the successful treatment of a Bernini terracotta. The final paper, by Ellen Carrlee and Lauren Horelick, introduced conservators to an extraordinary resource developed by the authors, i.e., a methodical, well-illustrated study of the fur of over 50 animals used in objects of cultural heritage.

The papers mentioned above are testament to the myriad issues that objects conservators encounter in their professional practice. I am extremely grateful to all of the speakers who shared their expertise and experience throughout the OSG session, and would like to give my added thanks to those who contributed written papers to this Postprints volume. I am also indebted to the dedicated team of conservators who worked relentlessly to ensure that the work shared at the annual meeting was documented and made available to the OSG membership in the form of Postprints. Christine Del Re, as Postprints editor, completed the Herculean task of gathering and editing the papers and keeping the authors on track. Carolyn Riccardelli designed and implemented the formatting of the Postprints, presenting its readers with an extremely attractive and thoughtfully organized volume. The AIC Publications Committee has also been working to provide the appropriate platform for making the Postprints available electronically, and I am grateful to the many members of that Committee for their careful work. It was a privilege to serve as OSG Program Chair, and it is a humbling and gratifying experience to see the work of the speakers reflected here in this volume.

Sanchita Balachandran, OSG Program Chair 2011