

FOREWORD

This is the seventh volume of the *Postprints* published by the Objects Specialty Group (OSG) of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic (AIC). It contains eight papers from the OSG session of the June 2000 AIC annual meeting held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It also contains one paper presented in the General Session. One abstract has also been included for a paper that has been published on the World Wide Web.

The title of the session was "Interchange: Replicas, Research and Resolution", a rather clumsy attempt to find a few words that sum up how conservation is very consciously working at finding ways to translate our passion for preserving cultural and natural heritage into a form that others can understand and accept. Sometimes that "translation" is conscious like the National Park Service *Exhibit Conservation Guidelines* CD-Rom. Sometimes it is using our technical skills to replicate all or part of an object for research questions or exhibit needs. Sometimes it is making preservation part of the use of an object so that public can understand in a very immediate way how people lived and worked with objects. What was illustrated over and over again, was how all these projects worked because conservators were able to adapt and work with other perspectives to incorporate conservation into larger projects.

The papers in this volume were edited minimally, but they were not peer-reviewed and authors are encouraged to submit their papers to juried publications such as the *Journal of the American Institute for Conservation*. Authors retain all rights of reproduction of the text and images. Four papers from the session are not included here. We hope the authors will submit them for publication in another venue as well.

A special thanks goes to Virginia Greene, who has been responsible for editing OSG Postprints since 1995. They would not exist without her good work.