

FOREWORD

This is the 13th volume of *Postprints* published by the Objects Specialty Group (OSG). Collected here in print form are ten lectures and a poster presented at the OSG Session of the American Institute for Conservation Annual Meeting in Providence, Rhode Island, on June 19th, 2006. The theme for the session - *Mounts, Armatures, and Structural Repairs* - provided a forum for objects conservators to address the difficulties of repairing and safely supporting broken and fragile artifacts in any number of materials, sizes, and situations.

The range of subjects and problems presented at the meeting was remarkable. At one end of the spectrum, Scott Fulton presented mounting strategies for housing the tremendously fragile glass filaments composing Harvard University's collection of glass flowers. At the other, Tina March and Lisa Bruno discussed mounts and repairs on a series of massive gypsum Assyrian relief sculptures weighing several tons apiece.

Solutions for armatures, like mounts, were equally varied and innovative. Joe Rogers and Dale Benson described the complex engineering and construction hidden within a fragmented marble lion from ancient Greece, while Julia Lawson, Ellen Carrlee, and Howard Wellman addressed difficult and unconventional problems raised by reconstructing and stabilizing large, but compromised, archaeological objects.

Conservation treatments also ran the spectrum from the monumental to the microscopic: Michael Belman used innovative industrial materials to repair a giant Alexander Calder mobile, while in a poster by Anya McDavis-Conway *et alia*, consolidation of hair fibers was approached at the molecular level.

Functioning objects raise other ethical and practical problems. Steve Dykstra's solution to repairing the mechanisms in an 18th-century clock could only be documented using audio recordings and short films, while Gerri Strickler's stabilization of an experimental, site-specific figural sculpture required a multi-phased, multi-pronged approach. In the final presentation, Clara Deck's report on conservation of large industrial equipment drew together many of the issues raised throughout the day.

On behalf of the OSG, I extend my thanks to all participants in the 2006 session. The hard work of speakers, authors, and session organizers made this contribution to the profession an outstanding success, as did the support and feedback by conference attendees and OSG members. In particular, however, my deepest thanks are offered to Virginia Greene, Pat Griffin and Chris DelRe, *Postprints* editors, who together shepherded the text into press. They captured this sharing of knowledge for posterity - without that final effort all record of the achievement would be lost. Thank you.

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