

New Publication on Disaster Funding

The Heritage Emergency National Task Force has published "Before and After Disasters: Federal Funding for Cultural Institutions." This booklet identifies available federal funding for making emergency plans, buying disaster supplies, and training staff for next year's hurricane season. The booklet also gives online resources for finding professional conservation expertise. Up to 50 copies can be ordered at no charge from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Call (800) 480-2520 and ask for FEMA publication #533 or download the 32-page booklet at www.heritagepreservation.org. More disaster resources can be found on the Task Force's website at www.heritageemergency.org.

Can You Help?

The Gulf Coast region suffered extensive loss of cultural property and associated records in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Prior to the disaster, many conservators worked with cultural property from Gulf Coast institutions. Interactions could have been in the form of general or specific collection surveys, treatments, photographs, videotapes, and condition or examination reports for loan, purchase, or reproduction. This documentation might now be the only surviving record of an object, collection, or structure. Due to the devastation, many institutions have lost contact information and may not be able to reconstruct their records. If you have documentation of cultural property from the hurricane-affected region, please contact the owner institution and let them know about your information. Make arrangements to send copies of documentation to the institution when they are able to receive it. Do not send original material and do not send information until you have made contact. When returning documentation, please note that the AIC may be able to provide additional informational resources and would like to hear about your efforts.

Many conservators want to help in the aftermath of Katrina but are unable to respond for a variety of reasons. This is one opportunity. Please

take the time to review private practice, regional center, and museum records for relevant documentation and provide copies to aid institutions in their recovery.

—Meg Loew Craft, Secretary, AIC Board

Washington Watch

House Committee Approves "Year of the Museum" Resolution

On September 29, the House Committee on Government Reform approved H.R. 389, recognizing 2006 as the Year of the Museum. The American Association of Museums (AAM) worked with committee staff to ensure that H.R. 389 was included on the agenda as well as key members of Congress to make certain the bill was scheduled for consideration by the full House of Representatives by the end of 2005. Visit <http://thomas.loc.gov> and search for "Year of the Museum" or "H.R. 389" to view updates and a list of cosponsors.

Health and Safety

Some Chemical Things Considered: Cyclododecane

Characteristics [NML and DuPont]

Chemical formula: C₁₂H₂₄ CAS#: 294-62-2 Molecular wt.: 168.32

Boling Point °C: 247 Melting Point °: 60.7 Flash Point: >93

Vapor Pressure, mm. Hg, 100°C: 10

Synonyms: CDD

Cyclododecane is a solid cyclic hydrocarbon. It is white and waxy in texture. It is soluble in non-polar solvents and nearly insoluble in water and other polar solvents. One characteristic of cyclododecane that makes it an attractive material for use in art conservation is that it sublimates, changing from a solid to a gas over time. The half-life for the degradation process of the chemical's vapor in the atmosphere by reaction with photochemically-produced hydroxyl radicals and is estimated to be 23 hours [NML]. When cyclododecane is adsorbed by soil, or

Respirator Reminder

The AIC Health and Safety Committee would like to remind all conservators who wear respirators (and those who need one) that OSHA regulations stipulate specific requirements for respirator use:

- Respirators and filters must be certified by NIOSH.
- A medical evaluation is required prior to fit testing and use.
- Fit testing is required prior to initial use.
- Fit testing is required at least annually, thereafter.
- Training for use is required initially and annually, thereafter.

Both employers and employees are responsible for knowing these requirements. Protect your health and safety and that of your co-workers: Read OSHA's Respiratory

Protection Standard and familiarize yourself with the requirements.

Go to http://www.osha.gov/dcsp/ote/trng-materils/respirators/major_requirements.html to view the major requirements of OSHA's Respiratory Protection Standard, 29 CFR 1910.134. For the complete OSHA Standard refer to the Federal Register (63 FR 1152, January 8, 1998).

Watch for the announcement of AIC's Health and Safety Committee informational session and fit testing at the 2006 AIC Annual Meeting in Providence, Rhode Island.

—Cheryl Podsiki
Objects Conservator
cpodsiki@fieldmuseum.org