

addition, there are various conservation requirements for archaeology and, as regards architecture, conservation of the structural components and fabric of the numerous buildings in the Historic Area. Long-range conservation research is also required; of immediate interest are: the study of environmental effects on building materials, the development of improved monitoring techniques and microclimate control systems, and the investigation of deterioration processes in wood, leather and textiles. It is expected that some of this research will be carried out "in-house" but more specialized work will be contracted to external laboratories and specialists.

At this time a number of pilot research projects are underway. CURT MOYER, archaeology conservator, is investigating the effectiveness of soxhlet extraction techniques for deionizing iron artifacts.

TOM TAYLOR, architecture conservator, is studying methods for removal of soluble salts from brick structures by poultice and electrolytic techniques. Of great importance are his preliminary studies on the nature of moisture gradients in walls of environmentally controlled historic structures.

RICHARD WHITAKER, objects conservator, is evaluating several vapor phase corrosion inhibitors for ferrous materials and also studying the effectiveness of selected consolidants for leather.

DR. STOLOW has brought with him his extensive conservation research and data files and collection of sample materials. Along with directing the overall conservation program he will continue his structural studies on paint layers and solvent action.

TECHNICAL STUDIES AT THE WALTERS ART GALLERY

TERRY WEISSER, Director of Conservation and Technical Research, reports activities at the Walters Art Gallery which indicate continuation of the high level of technical research activity at that institution. She is continuing her long-time interest in metallic corrosion studies particularly the treatments of bronze disease and local electrolytic treatment for corroded silver. Work has started on development of a treatment for the stabilization of Limoges enamels.

CAROL SNOW, Objects Conservator, is conducting technical studies of a Chinese bronze with copper inlay and a Chinese bronze forgery. She, in collaboration with TERRY WEISSER, continues studies of ivory; at present they are investigating techniques of dating old ivory and the effects of solvents on new ivory.

SIAN JONES, Paintings Conservator, is continuing her survey of canvas stamps. She has undertaken an important review of the techniques of treating panel paintings done at the Walters over the past 50 years and is evaluating their success.

MELANIE GIFFORD, Paintings Conservator, is utilizing scanning electron microscopy and x-ray fluorescence techniques to study the material and techniques of paintings by Manet and Jan Lievens in the Walters collection. Similar technical studies of Northern Europe paintings are being completed for a forthcoming Gallery catalog.

DONNA STRAHAN, a former intern, is to complete the investigation of the mechanism of silver corrosion by cyanide and the removal of cyanide corrosion products from silver objects.

As one of their responsibilities, Mellon Fellows also carry out technical studies. Mellon Fellow MARY SEBERA has begun an historical and technical examination of the paintings of Thomas Couture. A French Academic, Couture wrote extensively on painting techniques and influenced the Impressionists.

HELEN INGALLS, Intern, is concerned about an unusual crystalline stone-like casting material employed in a 19th century plaque. Her work includes a study

of material properties and chemical analysis.

It is expected that this work will be reported in forthcoming Gallery and conservation publications and in presentations at conservation conferences. Researchers welcome questions, comments and information from all interested or working in their problem areas. The Walters Art Gallery, 600 North Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21201 (301-547-9000).

DONALD SEBERA, Guest Editor

RESPIRATORS FOLLOW-UP

With reference to the published letter from ANN WAGER (May 1984), I wish to point out some cautions regarding respirators.

In the OSHA publication, "Occupational Safety and Health Standards for General Industry" (29 CFR 1910 as adopted by 530-10(88)IAC), Page 151 Regulation 1910-134 RESPIRATORY PROTECTION states:

Requirements are as follows:

- 1) Written standard operating procedures governing the selection and use shall be established.
- 2) Respirators for the hazards of exposure must be selected.
- 3) The users must be trained and instructed in the correct usage and limits.
- 4) Respirators should be assigned to individual users for their exclusive use.
- 5) All respirators must be cleaned by the user at least once a day.
- 6) Respirators must be stored in a closed, convenient, clean, sanitary location.
- 7) Routine inspections during each cleaning with replacement of worn parts.
- 8) Surveillance of area and employee exposure or stress must be maintained.
- 9) Regular inspection to determine the effectiveness of the program.
- 10) All persons using respirators should be examined by a local physician at least once a year to determine that they are physically able to perform their work and use the equipment.
- 11) Approved respirators only should be used.

All of the above regulations have been severely abbreviated for this letter.

We had the unfortunate distinction of being chosen by OSHA and NIOSH for an inspection of our property. They informed us that we were breaking the law regarding respirators since we had not actually provided a written plan of use for the "approved" respirators we were using and that none of our staff had been medically examined for the use of these respirators. We were cited and warned to correct these deficiencies immediately.

Under the current regulations, they said that in terms of the law, it was less of an offense for our staff not to wear respirators than to wear them without the benefit of the above!

Difficult to believe, but true.

STANLEY LYNN

JOINING SECTIONS OF GATORFOAM

During my presentation in Los Angeles I did not describe specific methods for joining sections of Gatorfoam to make non-expandable oversized supports. The following three methods have been successfully tried:

- 1) Single butt join. This method assures the flattest surface and is certainly sufficient for smaller additions.
- 2) Half-lap join. An extended strip of the upper facing of board A (i.e., the reverse facing and foam have been removed) overlap an equivalent