

Endowment for the Humanities, the Museum is assembling a comprehensive photo archive of the 19th Century Near East, and welcomes information about collections of historical photographs from North Africa to Asia Minor, east to Afghanistan, as well as the traditional Holy Land and the Arabian Peninsula. The period of interest spans the announcement of the invention of photography in 1839 to the advent of the snapshot camera, around World War I. For more information contact: Dr. Carney Gavin, Curator, or Ms. Ingeborg O'Reilly, Photo Archivist, Semitic Museum, 6 Divinity Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02138. (617-495-4631)

THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION provides limited support for the improvement of systematic anthropological research collections, in which objects are unified by a central theme and which may be extremely valuable for research purposes. The Anthropology Program of the Division of Behavioral and Neural Sciences administers this effort and in 1980 will consider proposals for collections that are in critical need of restoration. Grants, in the \$10,000 to \$50,000 range are designed to remedy past neglect and to enhance the availability of such collections for scientific research. Funds may be requested for the preservation of fragile or unstable artifacts, storage, or for increasing accessibility through cataloging. Short-term support for conservators or other technical assistants and small sums for renovation of existing space are also available. Contact: Mary Greene, Associate Program Director for Anthropology, National Science Foundation, Washington, D. C. 20550.

THE CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION has recommended a mandatory flammability standard for upholstered furniture, PFF 6-78, despite strong industry opposition. The proposed standard requires fabric manufacturers to classify fabrics into one of four categories (A, B, C, D), with Class A fabrics the most resistant to ignition by cigarettes and Class D the least resistant. Then, because the flammability of upholstered furniture is affected by its construction as well as the materials used, furniture manufacturers must build mock-ups, cover them with the fabrics they intend to use, and drop lighted cigarettes on the surface. JOE COLUMBUS notes that the rules would not effect old textiles, but would limit the variety and choice of new materials used in historic reconstructions. He also expressed concern about the effects of chemical flame and soil retardants on the permanence of fabrics. Ms. Adriana Bitter, vice president of Scalandre, a fine textile house, feels that the standard would hurt restoration work by cutting back the reproduction of fabrics. "The mass-produced items could continue and work around the problem, but the hand screened textiles that are printed with direct colors and then glazed, the heavy cottons, and the heavy linens, would all be drastically effected, if not totally eliminated." Final vote on the standard is not expected until December, 1979. The Decorative Fabrics Association has hired the law firm of Nicholson and Carter, 21 Dupont Circle, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036 to monitor the regulation's progress. For more information call: Mr. Nicholson or Mr. Lavine [REDACTED].

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR STATE AND LOCAL HISTORY is pleased to announce the continuation of its Consultant Service, supported by the National Museum Act as administered by the Smithsonian Institution. The AASLH Consultant

Service offers assistance to museums and historical societies which have active programs and need general help with long-range planning or specific advice on a museum-related problem. To qualify for the program, an applicant institution must have exhausted other sources of help and have budgetary circumstances that prevent bringing in an outside expert of the caliber needed to solve the problem. Under the terms of the service, recipient institutions are selected by a special AASLH screening committee. They can receive one- or two-day visits by recommended consultants who will advise on topics as far-ranging as conservation, exhibit design, record keeping, restoration, and general administration. Cost of the Consultant Service to the recipient institution varies with the institution's budget, but in all cases, AASLH pays the consultant's professional fees. Museums with operating budgets of less than \$50,000 per year pay local expenses as well as one-half consultant transportation expenses. Consultant Service applications are screened in January, April, July and October. For application forms and further information about the AASLH Consultant Service contact: Consultant Service, AASLH, 1400 Eighth Ave., So., Nashville, TN 37203.

The staff of the SAN FRANCISCO MUSEUM OF ART CONSERVATION LAB is working on a 30-minute educational film on the care and handling of paintings. It is designed for museum personnel, preparators and curators, and will illustrate the basics of proper examination, handling and packing of objects, paintings, etc. It will be completed by the Fall 1979.

In February, we announced the opening of THE TEXTILE CONSERVATION WORKSHOP in South Salem, N.Y. CARMELA SIMONS opened THE TEXTILE CONSERVATION WORKSHOP in Davis, California in 1977. There is no connection between the two concerns.

PEOPLE

With the closing of the Pacific Conservation Centre of the Canadian Conservation Institute, URSUS DIX and BARBARA KEYSER have joined the conservation staff at the National Gallery of Canada, BARRY BYERS now at the Vancouver Art Gallery and ERIC LAWSON has settled in British Columbia . . . SCOTT ODELL gave a talk on "Musical Instrument Conservation at the Smithsonian Institution" at the Center for Archaeometry, Washington University in April . . . LUIS NERI ZAGAL will conduct a "Conservation and Restoration Intensive Workshop at Harvard University . . . ROBERT A. McCARROLL has accepted the position of Paper Conservator at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts . . . BENITA DUMPIS now at Museum of Cultural History, University of California . . . LILY HAYEEM has left the J.P. Getty Museum to enter private practice . . . CHARLES A.E. BRANDT now at CCI . . . BETTE LANE married Carlo Tomberli of Florence, Italy and will work as a conservator there . . . SUZANNE HOLM has been sent by the Musee d'Quebec to study with DENNIS and JANICE DOBSON in Arlington, VA . . . KARL BUCHBERG has accepted the position of paper conservator at the Municipal Archives of the City of New York . . .