

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION announces deadlines of April 1, August 1, and December 1 for formal applications for support from scientists working in museums involved in research. Preliminary proposals should be sent in at least a month and a half before the deadline. Scientists should write for the brochure, Grants for Science Research, NSF 78-41A, Washington, DC 20550.

On December 7, 1978, the National Archives suffered a major fire in one of its nitrate storage vaults in Suitland, Maryland. James Gear, director of the Preservation Services Division, reports that 12.6 million of the 16 million feet of cellulose nitrate movie film stored in the building were destroyed. That represents almost one half of the Archives' total 26 million foot nitrate movie collection. Most of the footage consisted of out-takes from Universal News coverage of the 30's and 40's -- including scenes of the Depression and the bombing of Pearl Harbor -- and was unique. The storage building comprised 27 separate vaults arranged in two rows along a central corridor. Each vault had an interior metal door and an exterior blow-out wall designed to limit any fire to the vault in which it originated. The reasons why the fire began and spread are not yet known. A committee has been formed to investigate and will issue a report of its findings in February. As a result of the fire, the Archives is accelerating its program of copying the remainder of the nitrate movie collection onto safety film.

MORE CHEERY HEALTH NEWS: A microbiology group at the Royal Danish school of pharmacy reports that AROMATIC EPOXY RESINS are mutagenic in the bacterium *Salmonella typhimurim* and thus may represent a cancer risk in man. Several resins containing the diglycidylether of bisphenol A and small amounts of higher-molecular-weight material cause mutations in the Ames test, which is considered diagnostic but not definitive for carcinogens. (Chemical and Engineering News, 12/4/78)

Two free reports on ways of controlling human exposure to asbestos and vinyl chloride and thereby reducing the risks of cancer are available from the Office of Cancer Communications, National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, MD 20014.

On written request, NIOSH (the National Institute for Occupational Safety) will conduct a health hazards evaluation of one's workplace. Visits by an industrial hygienist or occupational physician may be included if necessary. For more information on the Health Hazards Evaluation Survey, contact Mr. Jerome Flesch, NIOSH, Robert A. Taft Laboratories, 4676 Columbia Parkway, Cincinnati, Ohio 45226 (513-684-2176). NIOSH also maintains a public information office in Bethesda, MD (301-443-2140).

OSHA (the Occupational Safety and Health Administration), which is based in Washington, enforces the regulations that NIOSH has established. OSHA provides free printout bibliographies and booklets such as "Criteria for Recommended Standard" for specific solvents. Write the Technical Data Center, OSHA, Room N-2439, U. S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Ave., N. W., Washington, DC 20210 (202-523-9700).

THE WILLIAM AND MARY ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSERVATION CENTER was established at the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia, in November, 1978. The Conservation Center is a division of the Department of Anthropology and is under the direction of Dr. Vinson Sutlive, Chairman, and Dr. Norman Barka. The Center is staffed by a conservator, ALEXANDRA KLINGELHOFER and one assistant, Anne Garland. The primary focus of the Center is the conservation of archaeological material, chiefly from historical sites in the mid-Atlantic states. At present, the Center is in charge of conservation for excavations carried out by the Virginia Research Center for Archaeology, including the Yorktown Shipwreck-Fleet Project. Additional conservation projects will be undertaken on a contract basis.

Membership in the CONSERVATION CENTER FOR ART AND HISTORIC ARTIFACTS, a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation, has grown to 46 historical societies, museums, libraries and archives, located primarily in the mid-Atlantic states. MARILYN KEMP WEIDNER is the director/chief conservator, and Michelle Gewirtz and DEBORAH SEIBEL are assistant conservators; they are aided by BETTY FISKE, secretary/apprentice, and Roswell Weidner, technician.

The CCAHA specializes in the conservation of objects on paper, and provides a range of services including surveys, consultation, and treatment of artifacts. Contracts with members vary from single item or intermittent treatment to yearly or multi-yearly arrangements. Work is also accepted from non-members at a higher hourly rate. The Center is seeking grants to help defray expenses during a three year start-up period, after which it is expected to become self-supporting. The Center will soon move to a new laboratory in the Philadelphia College of Art. For more information write: Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts, 612 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106.

CONSERVATION AND COLLECTIONS CARE CENTER ON PEBBLES ISLAND, Waterford, New York completed initial construction in December on a new wing to house two conservation laboratories for decorative arts and furniture, a finishing studio, an x-radiography room, and office space. Because expertise of the disciplines overlap, both laboratories share the finishing studio for "clean work," examination, and photography. The laboratories are headed by ROBERT MCGIFFIN and KENNETH MORRIS.

The new wing will deal with conservation problems of all three-dimensional objects in 35 historic sites owned and operated by New York State's Division for Historic Preservation. In addition, the laboratories will provide support to other disciplines which are housed temporarily in other spaces within the Center.

The project completes the first of a three phase construction program to modify existing factory building shells, totaling forty-three thousand square feet into a Regional Conservation Center. Phase II and III will complete laboratories for the conservation of paintings, paper, and textiles. Research, analytical, photographic, storage, registration, curatorial, and orientation facilities are also planned for the final phases.

The conservators of all disciplines and additional staff members have had considerable input into the designing of the entire facility.