

Corporate Donors

Western Center for the Conservation of Fine Arts (WCCFA)

VISIT NEW ORLEANS

On behalf of the Local Arrangements Committee, I would like to extend an invitation to all of you to attend the Annual Meeting this June and visit us in New Orleans. Aside from the jazz and food, you all have no doubt heard about, New Orleans has a varied and rich cultural and historic background. One will find many interesting areas of the city to explore; from the French Quarter, with its unique shops and Creole cottages, to the mansions of the Garden District where the Americans settled when the Quarter was home to the French and Spanish Creole free people of color. New Orleans is called the Crescent City as the Mississippi River winds through the city forming a horseshoe crescent. The downtown riverfront area has been developed for tourism as well as being the worksite of one of the country's largest ports. We are in the subtropics. June is hot, average temperature is 87° F. Dress for comfort, especially if you are unused to this climate. Natural fiber fabrics are best and bring your walking shoes. Afternoon rain showers are a fact of life, so bring your umbrella. Please join us for what promises to be an excellent series of meetings in a unique setting. See y'all.—Jessica Hack

REMINDER...

**DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER EARLY
FOR THE 1988 ANNUAL MEETING IN
NEW ORLEANS, LA!**

**(EARLY-BIRD REGISTRATION FEE = \$125,
BEFORE APRIL 19, 1988.)**

HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

OSHA ANNOUNCES FINAL FORMALDEHYDE STANDARD

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has published its Final Rule on Occupational Exposure to Formaldehyde. This revised standard will reduce the workplace exposure limit from 3 to 1 part per million (ppm) time weighted average (TWA) over the eight hour workday. It also sets a short-term exposure limit (STEL) of 2 ppm for any 15-minute period. A .5 ppm TWA action level triggers the standard.

Formaldehyde is released from many materials used in museums for constructing temporary exhibit spaces or renovating exhibit and office or lab areas. It outgases from glues in plywood, paneling, pressboard and the like. Other formaldehyde-containing products include urea formaldehyde insulation, carpet backing and adhesives, some paper products, soaps, household disinfectants, and permanent press fabrics.

These sources of formaldehyde may contribute to a high overall formaldehyde level in work areas. If the .5 ppm TWA is exceeded, the new OSHA standard can be applied. Copies of the standard can be obtained by writing the OSHA Office of Publications, US Department of Labor, Room N-3101, 200 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20210.

FAIC NEWS

MESSAGE FROM FORMER FAIC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

My official capacity terminated as of December 15th, 1987. The Board clarified its desires on intent and beneficial function of the Foundation. The Board may be right, I may be wrong; our ideas for FAIC are totally incompatible. I depart from an administrative role at a moment when our organization is experiencing serious growing pains. Our membership is fractured in arguments over procedural routines many of which have yet to be solved by established professions and others which have merely become outdated by our development and expansion. It is typical of adolescence that correcting and rewording codified stipulations can assume emotional proportions which obscure validity of earlier goals. We formed our organization to help one another achieve excellence in the performance of artifact care. Let's not throw the baby out with the wash.

Of course we have made mistakes. In my opinion one of these was the wrong academic placement for our training programs. We should have encouraged undergraduate art departments to add elementary courses in the historical fabrication of artifacts and in the techniques for analysis of their materials to the curricula of art majors. Then such college graduates, whatever their subsequent occupation, would share background knowledge in viewing art. The selection of research in a special category of conservation would be no more exceptional for a PhD candidacy than any other avenue toward an art expertise. We need the doctoral status. The society in which we work will never value us as we think we should be valued until we are able to evaluate ourselves as we think we should.

Things may get worse before they get better. Hasty decisions become stopgaps leading to more troubles. Our membership should engage in a dispassionate review of long-term patterns and vote for the best of them. I believe, given the dedicated and competent young actively practicing art conservation, we might hit the professional jackpot within a decade or so. As for me, don't count on this being my swan song. Granted I was born in 1908, I am still likely to be turned on by an exciting challenge.—Caroline K. Keck

IN APPRECIATION

On behalf of the members of AIC the FAIC Board wishes to express its appreciation and thanks to Caroline Keck for her many years of service as FAIC Executive Director. Mrs. Keck has guided FAIC from a little-known, passive organization to one which is now recognized for its educational programs and its endowment to assist students and professionals in our field. Mrs. Keck personally created the "Little Series" publications to stimulate interest in FAIC from the public. She also began the Friends of FAIC to encourage support and donations for FAIC's programs.

Although Mrs. Keck has decided to leave her position as FAIC Executive Director, we know she will remain active in the profession. As she states in her article in this *Newsletter*, this is not her "swan song." Knowing Mrs. Keck as we do, we can be certain that she will continue to encourage and participate in programs she supports. We wish her well and hope she will always look back on her FAIC legacy with pride.—FAIC Board