

# JAIC News

I am pleased to announce that Melanie Gifford, research conservator for painting technology, Scientific Department, National Gallery of Art, has agreed to be an associate editor of JAIC. She joins Norman Muller as the other member of the JAIC Editorial Board with a specialty in painting.—Elisabeth West FitzHugh, Editor

## Public Outreach Update

The number of AIC members presenting programs at annual meetings of allied organizations has increased dramatically over the past several years. Due in large measure to our increased efforts to foster the exchange of ideas and information among allied professionals and conservators, members have been involved in meetings of such groups as the American Association of Museums (AAM), Association for Preservation Technology International (APT), American Association of State and Local History (AASLH), College Art Association (CAA), Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC), Society of American Archivists (SAA), regional associations such as the New England Museum Association (NEMA), and the Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums (MAAM). In recent months AIC members have attended meetings of the APT, AAM, and the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Historic Resources Committee, to name but a few. In the first quarter of 1993, AIC representatives will attend sessions at CAA, the Interiors Conference for Historic Buildings, and the Textile Conservation group's symposium on "Use of Adhesives and Consolidants in Textile Conservation."

If you are planning to attend or give a paper at a professional association meeting—regional, national, or international—please inform the AIC office and we will gladly send you some brochures for distribution to interested parties. We need your help in this important outreach effort and look forward to hearing from you.

We are also making an effort to increase public exposure to AIC through lectures and presentations at small museums, libraries, collectors' groups, and historical societies. Guidelines to assist members when they make public presentations are being developed. These guidelines should be available in the near future. Limited quantities of AIC brochures are available for distribution. Additional brochures are in the works, including a general collections care brochure, an insurance brochure, and brief brochures on exhibition and storage materials and matting and framing.

Letters of introduction and AIC brochures have been sent to auction houses and a number of private collectors. Regional and state museum associations have been contacted to explore the possibilities for conservators to present programs at their annual meetings. We are also providing a regular column on conservation in the newsletter of the National Association of Dealers in Antiques, Inc.; anyone interested in writing short, general articles on conservation or collections care issues should contact: Marc Williams [redacted] or Pam Hatchfield

The search for images to illustrate messages for AIC posters is still under way. Prime candidates for themes are:

- There's More to This Than Meets the Eye
- Preserving the Past Is No Easy Matter
- So Much of Our Future Depends on Preserving Our Past
- Conservation Is Not Just for the Birds Anymore

Please search your files and let me know as soon as possible if you have appropriate images to illustrate these themes. Additional suggestions for themes are welcome.

We are still looking for volunteers to help organize efforts to get conservation news published in the national press. The specialty groups have been asked to identify public outreach liaisons who will suggest suitable projects. Everyone who feels this is an important activity of AIC is urged to come forward.

A small committee has been formed to work on an AIC exhibition. Specialty group representatives will advise the committee on the selection of appropriate material for inclusion. We plan to apply for funding to support development of the exhibition. Many

thanks for the contributions of those who have contacted us.

I want to thank AIC members who have already offered to help with public outreach projects. The outreach efforts the membership has voiced interest in pursuing are broad and varied. Each of these worthwhile projects involves a significant commitment of time, energy, money, and warm bodies. As is the case with most professional organizations, we are an organization run largely by volunteers; in order to make these efforts a success, we need your help and active participation. Please get involved; the success of these efforts rests with each one of you.—Pamela Hatchfield, Director for Public Information

## Health & Safety News

### MISCARRIAGES AGAIN TIED TO SOLVENTS

The *New York Times* (October 12, 1992) reported that workers at IBM, in this case pregnant women, who were exposed to solvents within accepted OSHA levels suffered an adverse health effect—miscarriage. The solvents in question were: ethylene glycol ethyl ether acetate (cellosolve acetate, TLV 5 ppm, known skin-absorbing reproductive hazard) and diethylene glycol dimethyl ether (related to cellosolve, no TLV, suspected reproductive toxicant). Both are widely used in making semiconductor chips and in some art products. They are also occasionally used in conservation. This article serves as a reminder that TLVs don't apply to the fetus. *ACTS FACTS* 6, no. 11 (November 1992). Monona Rossol, editor, [redacted] New York, NY 10012.

### TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE HAZARD COMMUNICATION STANDARD

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) Hazard Communication Standard of 1987, which regulates health and safety matters in the workplace, can affect all types of conservators—employers, employees, and, in some cases, the self-employed. For example, if a self-employed conser-

vator works as an independent contractor at a site where there are employees, his or her use and labeling of hazardous materials must conform to the standard. To test your knowledge of the standard, take the following quiz, adapted by the Health and Safety Committee from one prepared by John Messinger, associate professor of conservation science, for his students at the State University College at Buffalo. Correct answers are listed at the end of this section.

1. Employers are required to implement a hazard communication program that provides information to employees about the hazardous chemicals to which employees are exposed. (T,F)
2. Chemical manufacturers or importers must assess the hazards of their chemical products and provide this information to purchasers of their products via MSDSs, labels, etc. (T,F)
3. A list must be kept of all hazardous chemicals known to be present in the workplace, including hazard-

ous maintenance and cleaning materials. (T,F)

4. Employers must ensure that an MSDS on all hazardous chemicals found in the work area is readily accessible to employees on all shifts. (T,F)
5. Employers are required to evaluate the hazards of all chemicals they use. (T,F)
6. Under certain circumstances, the chemical manufacturer, importer, or employer may withhold the specific chemical identity of a hazardous chemical as a "trade secret." (T,F)
7. Employee training shall provide at least the following (circle all that apply):
  - (a) methods for detecting the presence of hazardous chemicals in the workplace (such as odor, appearance, and monitoring systems)
  - (b) information about the physical and health hazards of the chemicals in the workplace
  - (c) explanation of emergency procedures and of safe work practices

when using hazardous chemicals  
 (d) instruction in the proper use of protective equipment provided by employees for themselves  
 (e) details of the employer's hazard communication program, including an explanation of MSDSs and the labeling system and how employees can obtain and use hazard information

8. The MSDS of a chemical mixture must list all hazardous components. (T,F)
9. The physical hazards of a hazardous chemical include the potential for (circle all that apply):
  - (a) fire
  - (b) explosion
  - (c) physical harm to the body
  - (d) reactivity
10. A violation of the standard that has a direct relationship to job safety and health but probably would not cause death or serious physical harm carries a discretionary penalty of up to \$500. (T,F)

(See answers next page)

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## Answers to the Health and Safety Quiz

1. True. 29 CFR 1910.1200 (b)(1)
2. True. Ibid., (b)(1)
3. True. Ibid., (e)(1)
4. True. Ibid., (g)(8)
5. False, unless employers choose not to rely on the evaluation in the MSDS. Ibid., (d)(1)
6. True. However, the provisions require (among other things) disclosure of the properties and effects of the hazardous chemical. For details see Ibid., (i)
7. All except d. Instruction must be provided for personal protective equipment provided by the employer. Ibid., (h)
8. False. Only components that comprise 1% or more of the mixture (or carcinogenic components in concentrations of 0.1% or greater) must be listed, unless there is evidence that they could be released from the mixture in concentrations that could present a health hazard. Ibid., (g)(2)
9. a, b, d (not c) Ibid., (g)(2)(c)
10. False. In 1991, the penalty could be as much as \$7,000 for each violation and \$70,000 for a repeated violation. Recent examples of penalties reported in the Bureau of National Affairs *Occupational Safety and Health Reporter*, (22, nos. 27 and 30) include a \$6,000 penalty for failure to provide employees with information and training at a ceramic plant in New York (contesting) and a \$43,900 fine (upheld by the courts) for repeat serious and non-serious violations at a cabinetmaking shop in California, including: unsafe electrical wiring and equipment, unguarded power saws, inadequate ventilation, insufficient exits, hazardous housekeeping practices, lack of eye protection, insufficient safety training, and inadequate recordkeeping. For a discussion of penalties see *All About OSHA*, booklet #2056, U.S. Department of Labor, 1991 (free).

For a free copy of the standard, request Title 29 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) Part 1910.1200 from your local OSHA office, listed under the Department of Labor in the U.S. Government section of the phone book. OSHA also has a number of free publications that help explain the standard.

## FAIC NEWS

### FAIC Oral History Project Update

At the 1974 AIC meeting in Cooperstown, New York, Rutherford John Gettens, head of the Freer Gallery Technical Laboratory, spoke to the delegates: "To come to the point quickly," he said, "I think we should begin to think about collecting material for a history of the conservation of cultural property." He went on to say: "Knowledge of the beginnings and growth of our profession is a necessary background for a training program in art conservation," and "we wouldn't really be a profession without a step-wise history of growth." He emphasized the necessity for recording "personal recollections, anecdotes, and informal doings which tie together the serious events."

Following the meeting, he went to his home in Mooers, New York, and began writing his memories of the early days at the Fogg (in the same permanent black ink on acid-free paper in which he had written many technical reports for the Freer); he died in the following week. In the spring of 1975, George L. Stout, Richard D. Buck, and W. Thomas Chase called a meeting to discuss these ideas during a seminar honoring Gettens, and asked me—as the then managing editor of *Art and Archaeology Technical Abstracts*—to coordinate the gathering of history materials. The AIC/FAIC Board approved the project as an official FAIC effort, and it was formally announced at the 1976 AIC meeting in Dearborn, Michigan, with presentations by Stout, Buck, and Sheldon Keck, which were included in the *Preprints* from that year. Charles Hummel, AIC member and then head of the Curatorial Section at Winterthur Museum, approved the housing of the file in the climate-controlled, guarded Research Building at Winterthur. It now resides in the lower-floor Technical Library in the Main Library area, in a four-drawer file cabinet. Requests for consultation have been received from Ph.D. students in art history from Philadelphia and at least one West Coast university. Researchers can sit at well-lighted, supervised, quiet tables in the Rare Book Room.

The FAIC oral history file now contains more than 50 interviews with conservators, restorers, conservation scientists, museum directors, art administrators, and artists' materials suppliers. The interviews have been conducted (and largely transcribed) by students and graduates of all three U.S. conservation degree programs. Travel, tape, and equipment costs have been contributed by the interviewers. *Museum News* published an article on the early years of the project in the July/August 1977 issue (vol. 55), and articles on conservation pioneers George Stout (vol. 56, July/August, 1978, pp. 16-18) and William Suhr (vol. 60, November/December 1991, pp. 30-35). Thirty-three of the interviewees are listed in the 1977 article.

Recent transcriptions from older tapes have been typed by Joy Gardiner, Kathy Gillis, Walter Henry, Jo Hill, and Melissa Katz, some gratis and some thanks to a small fund awarded from the FAIC Board. Release forms have been sent to all interviewees along with copies of the transcriptions. (We would be glad to send duplicates to those who may read this article and have yet to return the forms. A signed form must be on hand before researchers may consult the files.) Procedures at the Archives of American Art and the Columbia Oral History Archive were consulted in 1975 to establish procedures for the FAIC file.

The most recent interview was held with Henry Levinson of Permanent Pigments and conducted by Bert Marshall at the suggestion of Robert Feller. Suggestions and volunteers are welcome at all times. A packet of information about the project can be sent upon request. George Stout suggested that we maintain this file until the time a "seasoned historian" can focus on our field in depth. We hope that one of the future University of Delaware/Winterthur doctoral students in Art Conservation Research may choose to study the methodology of history and begin to produce scholarly writings based on material in the files and elsewhere. Some scrapbooks from our pioneers have also been contributed.

To request an information packet, volunteer to conduct interviews or transcribe tapes, or nominate interviewees please contact: FAIC Oral