

HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

A well-fitted and well-maintained respirator is one of our most valuable tools for staying healthy while practicing conservation.

Only rarely can we find a store with a good stock of respirators. Usually a respirator is ordered from a catalogue and the choice of design and fit is limited to the selection the company chooses to offer. Most respirators acquired in that fashion are useless. In fact, they are downright harmful because they give a false sense of security.

A respirator that does not fit tightly over the nose, around the cheeks, and under the chin is not doing its job of sealing out contaminated air. There is no one respirator which will fit every face shape properly. Before committing your funds and lungs to one respirator, try on several styles and test the seal. (The manufacturers recommend spraying a sugar water solution around the mask to test for leakage. I find that opening a bottle of acetone works just as well.)

Each respirator comes with a set of instructions for proper maintenance. It is recommended that respirator face masks be washed in soap and water every week; that all parts, especially the filters, be tested daily and replaced immediately when found deficient; and that respirators be stored in sealed containers. (The filters continue to filter whether the mask is being worn or is sitting on a shelf.)

All too often respirators are hung on a hook near the spray booth or tucked away in a bench drawer and are not used because they do not fit properly, are not kept in good working condition, and are not comfortable to wear for extended periods.

3M has developed a line of NIOSH/MSHA-approved respirators which are worth examining. The masks are designed to accommodate themselves to a variety of face sizes and shapes; they are lightweight; they are designed to provide protection from a variety of specific vapors, gases, fumes, and particles; and perhaps best of all, they are maintenance free because they are disposable. (The model 8709 Spray Paint Respirator that several colleagues and I have tested is comfortable and effective and much more likely to be used because of its comfort and effectiveness.)

A good descriptive brochure, In Response to You and Your Workers, can be ordered through Occupational Health & Safety Products Division/3M, 220-7W 3M Center, St. Paul, Minnesota 55144. Or, call 1-800-328-1300.

ANN WAGER

SPECIALTY GROUPS

PAINTINGS (PG)

The first Paintings Specialty Group Newsletter was sent out to all 1983 PSG members. Additional copies will be available at the Los Angeles Meeting or through DAVID MILLER for all new members. (Editor: DAVID MILLER, Indianapolis Museum of Art, 1200 West 38th St., Indianapolis, IN 46208.)

The dates of the FAIC/Paintings Specialty Group refresher courses have been announced and are listed on page 1 under "FAIC News". Note date change of the Compensation Refresher, now July 9-13.

The deadline for the Lining Refresher has passed. Applications for the Compensation Refresher are being accepted until June 1. The generalist instructors for this course will be LOUIS POMERANTZ and BETTINA JESSEL. Active participation of the 15

selected attendees will be encouraged, including slide talks and demonstrations of problems that they have encountered. The tentative cost per person will be a \$200 course fee plus \$97-156 room and board (depending on accommodations selected).

The PSG sessions being planned for the Los Angeles meeting promises to be extremely interesting. General papers include "Sir Joshua Reynolds' Painting Techniques and Materials in his Portrait of Henry 8th Lord of Arundel", MARK BOCKRATH and BARBARA BUCKLEY; "Neutron Induced Autoradiography", C. H. OLIN et. al; "Variations on a Cold Table Theme", SANDRA LAWRENCE; "Technical Investigation of a Robert Adam Period Room", STEVEN ERISOTY; "Code of Ethics, Problems and Suggestions", PAUL HIMMELSTEIN; "Procedures and Logistics Involving Ceres, Goddess of Grain, a large mural painting", LOUIS POMERANTZ; "Problems in the Temporary Contemporary Los Angeles Museum", TATYANA THOMPSON. PAUL HIMMELSTEIN, KEN MOSER, TERRY HENSICK, DIANNE DWYER, RENE DE LA RIE, SUZANNE DEAL, and RUSTIN LEVENSON all have offered contributions to the "Test of Time" sessions. This part of the conference will offer opportunities to discuss experiences with previous, documented treatments. How have synthetic varnishes aged on paintings? Have structural treatments lasted? If treatments had to be revived or redone because of vandalism or other factors, which were the best methods of dealing with the previously used materials? These records and paintings offer a unique opportunity to share empirical information about materials on which we all rely. JIM GREAVES, ROBIN TICHANE, SANDRA LAWRENCE, SUZANNE DEAL, and JOYCE HILL STONER will be contributors to the "Ingenuity Session" comprised of short submissions on unusual tools, adaptations of commercial items for the studio, different approaches with traditional conservation materials, or any interesting problems with or without solutions. Others who would like to add to these sessions please call RUSTIN LEVENSON

Editor's Note: All program schedules are subject to last minute changes. The printed Program will be included in the Registration packets given out at the meeting.



Membership Renewals were due on April 30. Did you forget? Due to the change in our fiscal year, dues were prorated for this year only:

Fellows	\$37.
Prof. Associates	\$30.
Associates	\$24.
Students/Retirees	\$17.
Institutions	\$40.

Add late fee of \$10. for payment after April 30.

Members outside of the U.S. must add \$10. air mail fee.

Payments sent after May

31 must include late fee and a reinstatement fee of \$5.