

3. Further sale of Aroclor to conservators should be permitted. The material could be packaged in small containers (5 ml), adequately labeled.
4. We strongly support the establishment of a search group to be engaged in finding a substitute mounting medium which is less hazardous.

LYNDA A. ZYCHERMAN, of the Freer Technical Laboratory, represented the A.I.C. by presenting written and oral testimony. WALTER C. McCRONE (McCrone Associates, Inc.), MARTHA GOODWAY (Smithsonian Institution) and MICHAEL McCANN (Center for Occupational Hazards, Inc.) also testified.

Copies of the relevant documents are available from E.P.A., TS794, 401 M Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20460. The A.I.C. Office has one set.

The STONE CHEMISTRY TASK FORCE - International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) has prepared a preliminary outline of tests for assessing the composition and condition of stone in monuments, buildings and sculpture. The flowsheet has been designed to characterize sound material, decay products, and any replacements, impregnants, adhesives or coatings. The goal of the Task Force is the development of a body of standard methods for analysis that will provide reliable, objective data about historic stone. The next phase of the work will be the modification and amplification of the outline and its illustration with specific case studies. If a sufficient preliminary corpus of standard methods can be achieved by March, a conference will be convened in Rome in the summer of 1979, at which it is hoped that certain methods will be deemed sufficiently detailed, reproducible, and well-understood to be designated as "Standard." The tentative "Flowsheet for Analysis of Historic Stone" is available from Professor S. Z. Lewin, New York University, 4 Washington Place, Room 514, New York, New York 10003. Persons interested in contributing their time and experience (especially in the analysis of stone or the chemistry of exposed stone) to this project are encouraged to contact him.

A DANGEROUS PHENOMENON INVOLVING PLEXIGLAS is reported in the following letter from URSULA DREIBHOLZ, Paper Conservator at the Yale Center for British Art.

"A collector from Florida, passing through New Haven, showed me two ink drawings, 18th or 19th-century English, which he had framed under Plexiglas, with a sheet of Thymol-treated drawing paper at the back. For some reason he had them wrapped and stored away for two months, and after unwrapping he discovered that the Plexi had discolored to intense yellow, and the drawings and window-mats were sticking to it. He also told me about some blackish discoloration (?), which, at any rate, had disappeared when I saw the drawings. He left the drawings exposed to air for several weeks, but they are still sticking to the Plexi.

"He also contacted Rohm and Haas; they were rather unhelpful and seemed anxious he might sue them, but they admitted that the formula for the Plexi had been changed. They also pointed out that Plexi should not be used in connection with Thymol! In this context it might be interesting that this collector had a drawing treated exactly the same way some 12 years ago and nothing has happened until today.

"Since this is all second hand information and not my own experience, I would be grateful to hear if anyone else has had a similar experience or has heard about such a case. And I would invite comments from our scientist-colleagues."

ETHYLENE DICHLORIDE has produced malignant tumors in rats and mice in studies conducted by the National Cancer Institute. There is a possibility that people using this chemical run a cancer risk if the exposure is significant, although the level and duration of such exposure have not been determined. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health has recommended that ethylene dichloride should be treated in the work place as though it were a human carcinogen.

The Smithsonian Institution Libraries
Conservation Laboratory

The Smithsonian Institution Libraries Conservation Program, directed by its conservator JOHANNES HYLTOFT focuses its activities on the restoration of rare books and other library materials as well as preventative conservation measures for the library collections.

A conservation laboratory has been open and functional since November 1977, but additional equipment included in the conservator's plans for the facility is still in different stages of acquisition.

The laboratory is equipped to perform extensive conservation/restoration work, such as re-binding, lamination and reinforcing of fragile paper, non-aqueous deacidification, pH determination of books, documents and materials, leather binding preservation, production of acid free protective folders and specially designed flexible strip boxes, special pads for elephant folio size books and book dummies, photo documentation of the work performed, etc. Equipment for aqueous deacidification process and fumigation is being planned.

Some of the conservation program activities are:

- Inspection and assessment of the condition of the SIL collections.
- Examination and treatment of rare objects, books and papers.
- Collection of information and reports on the maintenance of the collections and on preventative conservation, including climatic and environmental control.
- Consultation on book and paper conservation problems in the Libraries.
- Advice to the Libraries' and Institutions staff on housing and displaying library materials.

In conservation situations, where specialized research is necessary, the conservator works in close cooperation with the Institution's Conservation Analytical Laboratory, as well as on occasion with the conservation staff of the Library of Congress.

The Smithsonian's Museum of History and Technology is in the process of organizing their conservation facilities and activities into one unit to be called the Division of Conservation. SCOTT ODELL has been appointed Acting Head Conservator. The Division of Conservation will consist of the staff and facilities of what was formerly known as the Technical Laboratory, the Model Shop and the Musical Instruments Laboratory. In addition, a Paper Conservation Laboratory is in the process of staffing and equipping. The facilities and staff of the separate labs will be available to all MHT divisions, and SCOTT ODELL will be responsible for coordinating the work of both labs and for assigning priorities for their services. He also will be responsible for coordinating and advising on all other activities of the Museum affecting the conservation and restoration of the collections.