

Call for Nominations

The Sheldon & Caroline Keck Award

In establishing the Sheldon and Caroline Keck award, the AIC wishes to recognize the dedication and commitment of senior conservators and conservation scientists who have given freely and graciously of their time and expertise to future members of the profession.

The award is intended to recognize a sustained record of excellence by an AIC Professional Associate (PA) or Fellow in the education and training of conservation professionals. These achievements may take one or more of the following forms:

1. The introduction of pre-program applicants into a private, regional, or museum conservation laboratory to explain the basics of conservation procedures, approaches, and ethics in any specialty, including conservation science
2. The organization and supervision of internship and apprenticeship training in any specialty
3. The instruction of students at a college or university in a pre-program preparatory conservation program, a master's level program, or a doctoral program
4. The organization and teaching of courses and workshops

Candidates should have readily accepted mentoring roles, regularly providing advice, consultation, and encouragement to beginners, nonacademic trainees with high craft skills, practitioners who wish to broaden their skills, or student conservators at all levels.

Send nominations to the AIC Board at the AIC office.

Health & Safety News

MALE REPRODUCTIVE HAZARDS: Exposure to lead, cadmium, toluene, xylene, and carbon disulfide have been associated with impaired fertility in males. Adverse effects to offspring may also be related to paternal exposure. "Wives of painters who were exposed to aromatic solvents were

found to be more likely to have children with certain birth defects. In a large Scottish study (1981-84), men who were ceramicists had an increased likelihood of fathering premature babies. . . . It has been shown that fathers with certain jobs, including auto mechanics, auto repairmen, and welders, had an increased likelihood of having children who developed Wilm's tumor (a kind of kidney cancer) than fathers with other jobs." Especially during the three months before trying to conceive, hopeful fathers should avoid skin contact, ingestion, and inhalation of toxic materials. "Reproductive Hazards: Not for Women Only," *Art Hazards News* 16, no. 2 (1993). Center for Safety in the Arts, 5 Beekman St., Ste. 820, New York, NY 10038.

NATURAL HISTORY ANIMAL SPECIMEN GUIDELINES: The Royal British Columbia Museum (RBCM) developed special health and safety guidelines for personnel working in field collecting and the museum's specimen preparation laboratory after the plague was identified as the cause of death in two specimens of bushy-tailed woodrat. "RBCM safety measures include: using biological safety cabinets for procedures such as evisceration; use of gloves, goggles, and face masks; daily disinfecting of the laboratory floor; freezing of nesting materials before examination and handling with gloves; and dilution of waste liquids with bleach." "Plague Threatens Museum Workers," *ACTS FACTS* 6, no. 12 (December 1992). Monona Rossol, editor, [redacted] New York, NY 10012.

OSHA PEL NIGHTMARE: The 11th Circuit Court of Appeals has denied the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's request for a rehearing on the decision vacating the revised air-contaminants standard, which updated many Permissible Exposure Limits (PELs). As a result, OSHA now is expected to enforce outdated PELs for 212 substances, and another 164 substances are left with no PELs at all. OSHA published the reinstated PELs but stated [in the Federal Register] that they "believe that many of the old limits which it will now be enforcing are out of date (they predate 1968) and not sufficiently protective of employee health based on current scientific information and expert recommendations. In addition, many of the substances for which OSHA has no PELs present serious health hazards to employees."

By saying that workers are at risk, OSHA at least makes it easier for people to sue if they are deliberately exposed above the 1989 limits. OSHA

also may be able to enforce the vacated 1989 PELs through a general duty clause that requires employers to furnish a place of employment "free from recognized hazards that are causing or are likely to cause death or serious physical harm."

If this wasn't confusing enough, the court's decision does not directly affect the 25 states that have OSHA-approved plans. Some of these states may retain the 1989 limits. To avoid problems, it is best to compare the 1989 PELs for these substances with the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists' limits (TLVs), and comply with whichever is most protective. For TLV's, consult "Threshold Limit Values and Biological Exposure Indices," updated annually. Order for \$10 from: ACGIH, 6500 Glenway Ave., Bldg. D-7, Cincinnati OH 45211-4438; (513)661-7881. Reprinted from *ACTS FACTS* 7, no. 10 (October 1993). Monona Rossol, editor, [redacted] New York, NY 10012.

THREE NEW ART HAZARDS BOOKS REVIEWED: *Artist Beware*, by Michael McCann; *Health Hazards for Photographers*, by Seigfried and Wolfgang Rempel; and *Making Art Safely*, by Merle Spandorfer, Deborah Curtiss, and Jack Snyder, M.D., are critically reviewed by the editor of *ACTS FACTS*. Each book is judged to be a valuable contribution if the reader is aware of certain errors and weaknesses that the review details. *Artist Beware* is criticized mostly for its omissions. The other books contain technical errors that could compromise safety. Contact ACTS for copies of the reviews to supplement the texts. *ACTS FACTS* 7, no. 3 (March 1993). Monona Rossol, editor, [redacted] New York, NY 10012.

FAIC Donations

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