

basis, so register early. If you have not received a registration packet contact the AIC office. Remember: The deadline for the advantageous Early Bird registration is **April 15**. The Program Committee and the staff join Dee Minault (p. 12) and the Local Arrangements Committee in inviting you to attend what promises to be a lively and interesting two-day session on "Establishing Original Intent," specialty group programs, a gala opening reception at the Hermitage (beloved home and farm of President Andrew Jackson), and other stimulating events.

Watch your mailbox for the early April membership mailing, which will include the newly revised *Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Practice* (to be the focus of discussion at the issues session); the 1994 slate of officers, their biographical sketches and position statements; ballots; and the minutes of the 1993 general (business) meeting. **Please be sure to sign your ballot on the outside of the envelope.** This system allows us to verify the validity of the ballots. Thereafter, the ballots are treated in such a way as to assure secrecy. The mailing will also include the 1993 *Annual Report*.

By now, you should have in hand our latest publication, *Research Priorities in Art and Architectural Conservation: A Report of an AIC Membership Survey*. We are particularly grateful to Chandra L. Reedy and Eric F. Hansen for their Herculean efforts in putting this very complex study together and to all the specialty groups who administered the questionnaires to their members. We also want to thank the National Institute for Conservation for their generous contribution to the publication costs, which made it possible to present a copy to each AIC member.

I am pleased to report that we have had a good response to the group health, life, and long-term disability insurance program AIC is offering to members. As of early January, 385 members from across the nation requested kits explaining the various options. If you would like information on the plans, contact Hendrickson & Company, (800) 886-2980.

The staff and I look forward to welcoming you to Nashville in June. In the meantime, if you have questions, suggestions, or ideas you would like to share with us, please write or give us a call. We enjoy hearing from you.

## Health & Safety

As I was looking over the health and safety publications that I read with regularity for this column, I saw Chris Stavroudis' Health and Safety column in the *WAAC Newsletter* (vol. 16, no. 1, January 1994). He discusses safety awareness and stresses how much can be contributed by the simple act of reading health and safety periodicals regularly.

It set me thinking about this column. It is intended to inform the membership on vital health and safety issues. Beyond that, I realize that it has an additional intent: to cultivate an *active* interest in health and safety.

What I have learned in the past year and a half of reading health and safety publications and talking frequently with Center for Safety in the Arts (CSA) and Arts, Crafts, and Theater Safety (ACTS) is that each person should actively assume responsibility for his/her own protection at work and at home. Dependence on regulations, labels, and a single column like this one to provide all that is needed for protection cannot work. By contrast, self-reliance, constant questioning, and common sense can work, especially if you consider a commitment to your health as necessary to fulfill your professional goals.

The problem is that most conservators are not trained to think of personal safety first. Retraining is required to refocus our thoughts so that safety awareness can become an effortless habit. Retraining is where the simple act of reading health and safety periodicals regularly comes in. As Stavroudis notes, "It is this type of meditation that reading through *ACTS FACTS* once a month and *Art Hazards News* five times a year can initiate. Subscribe." I could not agree with him more, although I would add his column and *WAAC Newsletter's* "Articles You May Have Missed (AYMHM)" to the reading list.—Sandra Blackard

*ACTS FACTS*: Arts, Crafts, and Theater Safety, 181 Thompson St., #23, New York, NY 10012-2586. \$10 annual subscription (12 issues).

*Art Hazards News*: Center for Safety in the Arts, 5 Beekman St., Ste. 820,

New York, NY 10038. \$21 annual subscription (five issues).

*WAAC Newsletter*: Western Association for Art Conservation, Mary Piper Hough, 12110 Mitchell Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90066. \$25 annual WAAC membership (three issues).

## Public Outreach Report

Isn't it time for you to use your professional experience to help educate the public about conservation? We need you! What is conservation? How is it different from restoration or preservation? What can I do to keep my family's heirlooms in good condition? These are the types of questions the general public often asks. It is time to take the mystery out of conservation. AIC members are needed to present lectures at local historical societies, libraries, galleries, and museums, in addition to meetings of related professionals such as picture framers, antique dealers, and collectors groups. A number of members have contacted the AIC office over the past year to request brochures and other information for distribution at such meetings. If you know of a possible venue in your area, please call the office, and we will provide materials to assist in your presentation. It is also important to get conservation-related articles into print. Please let us know of any magazines, newspapers, or newsletters that would benefit from an accurate and informative article on conservation. For example, AIC members Pam Hatchfield and Marc Williams have been writing articles for the National Association of Dealers in Antiques (NADA) newsletter. AIC needs interesting, good quality photographs of conservators at work for use in future brochures. Please send them to Marcia Anderson, publications manager, at the AIC office. AIC members have participated in and distributed brochures in a number of events. Here are some examples:

- Sally Gant, Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, organized a seminar on conservation through the