

Looking Back and Taking Stock—A Journey through Past Projects

Since the 2018 AIC Annual Meeting theme had been expanded for the Book and Paper Group session to include reevaluation of materials used in historical conservation treatments, the speaker reflected back on more than 30 years of training and working in the conservation field and publicly reviewed some cases that provided great anxiety at the time or gave pause upon reflection today. He did in fact review his own—by now—historic conservation treatments. The cases ranged from unintended immediate physical and chemical modifications, to unexpected long-term changes that have an impact on the use of collection items. The speaker reviewed a number of conservation treatments and evaluated how they have stood the test of time. He also recounted his experience as a conservation student, damaging a 16th-century Albrecht Dürer print during a conservation approach that he has since no longer used. He discussed his experience with light bleaching a

19th-century drawing by Joseph Keppler, an action that created unanticipated chemical changes in the paper. And he delved into mechanical paper splitting and the unexpected long-term effects of this technique on 19th-century US newspapers. The speaker ended with an observation made using Russell-effect photography and wondered whether the widespread use of the mat window as storage container should receive closer scrutiny in case, in certain circumstances, this type of housing unintentionally creates an environment that will give rise to a higher oxidation rate within the confines of the window.

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