Regional News

Marie Laibinis-Craft, column editor

GREATERS LOS ANGELES

Lily Du an is volunteering one day a week in Victoria Blyth Hill’s paper conservation studio as a pre-program intern. Lily has a strong background in chemistry and biology from Cal State Long Beach and has previously interned with Tania Collas at the Natural History Museum. She is currently a library assistant at UCLA and will be applying to the fall 2009 conservation graduate programs.

In November, Victoria presented the conservation treatment of a large 17th-century Tibetan thangka Yamu and Tami. The thangka is largely from the collections. The presentation was to the South Asian Art Council and in the galleries with the thangka.

This past fall, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences’ Margaret Herrick Library reluctantly bid adieu to Lucia Bay who moved to Chicago. Currently, Lucia is busy working on ethnographic materials that were damaged during the Iowa floods at the Chicago Conservation Center and assisting Kris- ten Lister with research on a Matisse painting. Margaret Herrick Library’s new conser- vator, Jennifer graduated from the NYU Conservation Center this past May and is excited to have the chance to settle down in her hometown.

The J. Paul Getty Museum at the Villa will be presenting three unique exhibitions focused on the conservation, examination, and presentation of objects used in ceremonial healing for Cook Inlet Tribal Council. She is also in the midst of clean- ing, repair, and reinstallation of a rare ink on hide painting by Wilbur Wallick in the University of Arizona in November.

Meghan McFarlane, Winterthur/UD conducted a workshop on removing metals on ethnographic collections using the XRF analyzer as a screening tool.

Martha Dolan, a graduate student in Native American studies, is completing a formal internship in collections care.

Teresa Moreno continues to advise the Arizona State Museum’s architectural heritage and construction team on conservation issues related to the design of ASM’s future facility at Tucson’s Rio Nuevo Downtown Museum District. In addition she continues her work with ASM’s exhibit development teams, which are busy curating and developing new exhibits for ASM and for the future Rio Nuevo facility. In October, Teresa attended the annual WAAC Meeting in LA and will serve as WAAC Secretary for another year.

Gina Watkinson is working closely with ASM photography and IT staff to reorganize the Museum’s digital pho- tographs and archives. Gina continues to assist with on-going collections of objects selected for ASM’s Journeys of Our Ancestors exhibit.

Nancy, Teresa, and Gina hosted a tour of the ASM conservation lab for par- ticipants in this year’s BACC: Focus on Collections Care workshops held at the University of Arizona in November. A number of the Museum’s staff members have participated in the workshops. Werner Zimmt and Nancy are testing a new pesticide removal technique, re- searching gum identification and iron stabilization.

Leslie Frame and Dave Smith, UGA gradu- ate students in Heritage Conservation Science, are working on x-ray methods that have bedeviled our conservation staffs and others working in traditional conservation science, but which are水果photomicroscopy from fiber analysis completed by Freer during her fellowship. The workshop will be presented by Jeanne instructed and in the museum collections.

The Getty Commodus: Roman Portraits and Modern Copies. The Getty’s marble bust of the Roman emperor Commodus was acquired in 1992 as an Italian work of the 1500s, but specialists later pro- posed that it may be from the second century A.D. Putting the object in context with Roman portraits and modern cop- ies from the Manstein and Neoclassical period to ephemeral forms, this exhibition publication includes a description of indirect and direct lost wax casting, as well as cast and sand, a history of the technical study of Renaissance bronzes, and an illustrated glossary.

On February 17, an exhibition titled la Bolodana’s Royal Commission: The Making of a Polychrome Sculpture will open at the Getty Center. Co-curated by Maite Di Pardo and Annette Frankfurter, the exhibition focuses on the materials and techniques used to create the Getty’s life-sized Span- ish sculpture of St. Grisélis de la Jara.

Soko Furuhata presented a talk entitled “What is Washi?” at the WAAC annual meeting held at the Getty Villa in October. Soko spoke about this exceptionally insightful about Japanese papermaking and the people that continu- ed to develop this art form. The talk focused on the log of the second Washi tour organized by Hiromi of Hiromi Paper International.

Erie Jue, 2008 Andrew Mellon Fellow in paper conservation, is continuing her work on a variety of projects that include the restoration of large-format movie posters. Jennifer Kim, the Academy of Mo- tion Pictures Margret Herrick Library. The three are researching conservation treatment options and mounting systems for new industrial support materials for large-format movie posters.

Regional News, continued

ALASKA

Monica Shah attended the Digital Pho- tography for Conservators workshop and the WAAC annual meeting in Juneau. She is currently working on projects at the Alaska Chorage Museum, including treatments and mount designs.

Scott Carriere has been working di- rectly on the meeting planning for WAAC 2009 in Juneau. Things are go- ing smoothly, and this promises to be a very good meeting. Scott performed a CAP assessment at the American Bald Eagle Foundation in Haines, AK. Scott attended the WAAC annual meeting on a project to bring paper conservator Grace White up to Alaska this winter to perform assess- ments and minor treatments in remote Alaskan locations.

Ellen Carriere is working on collections storage and fire suppression upgrades at the Alaska State Museum. Diana K. Mattes of McCrone Microscopy came to install and provide refresher training on a new Olympus BX51 polarized light microscope. The first project underway with the new PLM is compiling reference data needed to identify Alaskan fur materials. Diana K. Mattes is working on a project to develop a material for Alaskan fur identification.

Monica Shah has also been working on a project to compile a reference list of Alaskan fur identification material for the new PLM is compiling reference data needed to identify Alaskan fur materials. Diana K. Mattes is working on a project to develop a material for Alaskan fur identification.

GREATER ROCHESTER

Arlene Heginbotham has been work- ing with Jacek Gerwins, Curator of Scientific Collections, Yama and Yami, a ceramic masterpiece. It illustrates how technical ceramics in the NPS lab in Tucson. She is also treating ceramics in the NPS lab in Tucson. She is also treating ceramics in the NPS lab in Tucson.

Andrey Harrison continues treatments to damaged quill work for the ethnographic collection of Grand Teton Na- tional Park at the NPS labs in Tucson. He is also treating ceramics in the NPS collections.

Nancy Odegaard presented a paper in October at the productive Affinities Symposium that was co-hosted by the Art Institute of Chicago and Northwestern U. The Symposium focused on successful collaborations in conservation science between museums and academias.

Bruno Pouliot, c o-conservator at Win- terthur/UD conducted a workshop on removing metals on ethnographic collections using the XRF analyzer as a screening tool.

Maggie Kipling is continuing her work documenting and treating ceramics col- lections largely from Canyon de Chelly National Monument. She also treated remains and minor treatments in remote Alaskan locations.

Janelle Matz is working on the instal- lation of an object used in cer- emonial healing for Cook Inlet Tribal Council. She is also in the midst of clean- ing, repair, and reinstallation of a rare ink on hide painting by Wilbur Wallick for the University of Arizona in November. She presented a talk entitled “What is Washi?” at the WAAC annual meeting held at the Getty Villa in October. Soko spoke about this exceptionally insightful about Japanese papermaking and the people that contin- ued to develop this art form. The talk focused on the log of the second Washi tour organized by Hiromi of Hiromi Paper International.

Regional Reporter: Ellen Carriere

ANITA

Bryan Bender was promoted to the se- nior conservator position for the National Park Service’s Midwest Region Mu- seum Services Program in Tucson. She traveled to Bisti/De-Na-Zin, Canyon National Recreation Area in Wyoming and Mon- tana to help the park strengthen its museum preservation program. Bryan is also working on the identification of heavy metals on ethnographic collections using the XRF analyzer as a screening tool.

Regional Reporter: Lynn Ann Davis

HAWAII

The Getty Commodus: Roman Portraits and Modern Copies. The Getty’s marble bust of the Roman emperor Commodus was acquired in 1992 as an Italian work of the 1500s, but specialists later pro- posed that it may be from the second century A.D. Putting the object in context with Roman portraits and modern cop- ies from the Manstein and Neoclassical period to ephemeral forms, this exhibition publication includes a description of indirect and direct lost wax casting, as well as cast and sand, a history of the technical study of Renaissance bronzes, and an illustrated glossary.

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Jane Bartess’s book The Craftsman Revealed: Adriana de Vries, Sculptor in Bronze is now available through Getty publications. The volume presents the results of the technical study of twen- ty-five bronze busts by the Dutch manner- ist sculptor Adriana de Vries, ranging in size from table-top to near-life-size examples. The exhibition publication includes a description of indirect and direct lost wax casting, as well as cast and sand, a history of the technical study of Renaissance bronzes, and an illustrated glossary.

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Regional News, continued

Aisha Wahab, pre-program intern in paper conservation, finished her organic chemistry in October and is preparing her graduate program applications. She con-
tinues to be enthusiastic and interested in the field of paper conservation. Research and treatments she has been asked to perform in De-
cember, this California girl moved to Michigan to be with her husband.

Chait Nairn presented the paper han-
dling portion of the "Art and Artifact Handling: Basic Training Guidelines" seminar and workshop held at the Japa-
nese American National Museum, last November 14th. Joe Fronk presented the painting handling portion.

After almost two years as Head of Paper Conservation at LACMA, Janice Shup-
fer continues to organize and revamp the studio and has been instrumental in cre-
ating a dedicated matting and framing department, head by Danie Daniels.

Terry Schaeffer gave a talk at the WAAC meeting last October entitled "Evaluation of Fiber Samples from Early Victorian Dyed Woolen Yarns."

Charlotte Eng and Frank D. Preusser presented a paper, "Portable Digital Mi-
croscopy: A Valuable Aid in Non-Di-
agnostic Object Examination." Later in the conference, they also presented a paper, "Ultraviolet-excited Fluorescent Phot-
ography of the written word: the Pho-
raphy in Art Conservation." For people that have never had the opportunity to make a visible word in their hands, this paper is making available his workshop handout as a publication via Lulu.com. Just search for publication: 4002004.

The Sculpture Conservation Studio has just finished applying for a "Preserve America" award for this project.

Regional News, continued

Additionaly, CSIC has just completed the conservation of several hundred artifacts from the RMS Titanic which are due to go on a ten-year exhibit at the luxury hotel in Las Vegas. The conservation of the reflective sculpture located in the north wall of the room. Andrea Morse gave a talk at the IIC in London in September on the LACMA conservancy award project for History of Transportation, (the 240 XRF petrochroama WPA mural). CSIC has also just finished applying for a "Preserve America" award for this project.

The Sculpture Conservation Studio will not be taking on any new projects due to Heather’s "extended vacation." Nora Frankel spent two weeks working on the outdoor sculpture and training staff in basic maintenance. Carmen Brito installed and rolled two monumental Harry Jackson paintings.

Papercaster Heather Tudhope and her husband Roby Sherman are happily expecting a baby this spring. Due to an extensive backlog Tudhope Conservation Studio will not be taking on any new pri-

ty clients with the intention of complet-
ing all current and future projects before Heather’s "extended vacation."

News from the conservation staff of the BROCHU Conservation Solutions, Inc (CSI), are beginning work on several projects that include the assessment, conservation, and relocation of the Glen Rose Dinosaur Tracks at the Texas Museum Museum in Austin; the conservation of the Flagger Memorial Monument located in Biscayne Bay, Miami, Florida; a conservation study and treatment recommendations for the Coral Cables Museum in Florida; the reassembly of the Kirt Bitter Pulpit located at the Metropolitan Museum of Art; and the conservation and quality oversight of the Carrs Playhouse located at the Arkansas Post Museum in Gillett, Arkansas.

Regional Reporter:
Virginia Rasmussen

NEW MEXICO

Joe Sembrat and his company, Conser-
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Regional Reporter:
M. Susan Barger

PACIFIC NORTHWEST

The Royal BC Museum conservators bid farewell to Jennifer Van Den Berg, her husband and washed her all the best after a very busy and suc-
sessful internship in the Textiles Lab. Fortunately the textiles conservators have two skilled and eager volunteers, Erin Alexander and Beth Boyer, to take on the textile conservation. The textile archives is fortunate to have the new interns. The newly opened Fleeming College, working her the bone preparing war posters for Remembrance Day. The objects has been identified as the conservation and relocation of the Bush House Museum Museum in Salem, OR, and collaborating with Joni Davis and the Kirt Bitter Pulpit with the Bush House Museum Museum in Salem, OR.

Regional Reporter:
Bob and Marianne Troon

Jennifer Barsby

Heather’s "extended vacation."

Regional Reporter:
Dana K. Sengge

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

Beverly Perkins joined the staff of Firenze Conservatori as Conservator. Allison Holcomb started as a BBCH conservation fel-
low this summer and has been hired as the conservation technician. Rachel Free, Jennifer McNichol, Suzanne Morris, and Nora Frankel completed many treatments during their intern-
ships and the Portland Art Museum. Sandi Bobo and Bob Marti spent two weeks working on the outdoor sculpture and training staff in basic maintenance. Carmen Brito installed and rolled two monumental Harry Jackson paintings.

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Regional News, continued

Colorado School of Mines (CSM). She is helping the lab construct a proposal for a long-term relationship with CSM in which students and staff would share projects and equipment.

Preprogram intern Tessa de Alarcon has been an excellent source of help in a wide variety of treatments for the Western American art installation and in preparing a number of Native American objects for publication.

David Turnbull has created a viable paintings lab out of minimal space and with few resources. In addition to taking care of the contemporary art on exhibit, David has treated a several paintings for the upcoming installation. The museum continues to plan for an enlarged space and laboratory.

Paper conservator Sarah Melching has been catching up on a number of projects. The next few months will see her at work on posters for Cowboys, Indians, and Rock and Roll, a collection of 1967-1974 psychedelic posters from San Francisco. She has recently taught a workshop (on care of photographic materials and emergency recovery of same) as part of the Balboa Art Conservation Center’s “Focus on Collections Care Workshops,” funded by NEH. The workshop was given at the U. of Arizona.

Gina Laurin presented a paper on unstable and hazardous collections at the Mountain-Plains Museum Association in Kansas City, MO. She is currently working on a protocol for handling collections suspected of containing toxic materials and testing for them. Volunteers, working under her supervision, have been mounting textiles for exhibition in one of the museum galleries and interacting with members of the public.

Regional Reporter:
Paulette Reading
paulette.reading@gmail.com

Regional News, continued

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

Architectural Resources Group (ARG) welcomes new employee Lacey Bubnash, an architectural conservator with a degree from the Historic Preservation Program at Columbia University.

Architectural conservators Mary Slater, Kelly Wong, and Lacey Bubnash, as well as construction specialist Tina Saltman are part of an on-going effort to survey the exterior conditions of nine original buildings (c. 1910) at San Francisco General Hospital.

Architectural designer Jason Wright, Kelly Wong, and Lacey Bubnash recently completed an exterior conditions assessment and window survey of Oregon State Hospital’s Kirkbride Building in Salem, Oregon where the infamous One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest was filmed. Constructed in 1884, the restoration of Kirkbride Building’s six wards is part of a larger hospital revitalization project to modernize Oregon’s mental health care system.

ARG Conservation Services (ARG/CS) welcomes new employee Ted Dunn, a preservationist with a degree from the Historic Preservation Program at the Art Institute of Chicago. Ted’s previous experience included production of construction documents and consulting on historic preservation issues in historic homes.

Senior conservator Katharine Unitch, architectural conservator Mersedeh Jorgani, and conservation technician Collin Eaton completed the second phase of cemetery conservation at the Shasta Catholic Cemetery in Shasta, California.

Katharine Unitch and Collin Eaton completed conservation efforts on Peace, a sculpture by Beniamino Bufano in San Francisco. Work included repointing cracked or open masonry joints at the base and resealing opening metal joints, and stabilization of the mosaic elements of the sculpture.

Preservation mosaic specialist Devlin McDonald and Mary Slater completed oversight of exterior renovations at One Beach Street in San Francisco. The 1920s building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

ARG/CS also worked collaboratively with mural conservator Anne Rosenthal for the recently completed conservation of the murals in the lobby of the Maritime Museum of San Francisco. The WPA-era murals are an expressionist vision of Atlantis by Hilaire Hillner.

The Asian Art Museum of San Francisco welcomes Katie Holbrock as the head of conservation. Through a grant, the lab was able to purchase a large suction table for use on the museum’s Thai paintings collection. The lab worked toward having XRF capabilities in the near future and is in the process of going digital with documentation.

The de Young Museum in San Francisco is hosting an Yves Saint Laurent retrospective on view until April 5th, 2009. Head textile conservator Sarah Gates and associate conservator Beth Szahay led the installation team, which included help from contract conservator Yun Bin Larochette. The show highlights 129 accessorized ensembles belonging to the Fondation Pierre Berge - Yves Saint Laurent in Paris.

Texas

Recent news from the Amon Carter Museum: Sylvie Pénichon was a guest scholar at the J. Paul Getty Museum from July through September 2008; she worked on a book project on the history and identification of 20th-century color photographs. In October, Sylvie co-hosted a one-day workshop on the care and handling of photographs with Barbara Brown and John Rohrbach for the Texas Assoc. of Museum Educators. Members also attended the Collaborative Mellon workshop on photograph conservation on 20th-century color photography hosted at MoMA, NY.

In October, Bruce Kaiser of Bruker AXS visited the Amon Carter Museum for two days of training on their portable XRF unit. Conservators from local museums including the Carter, the Kimbell Museum of the Dallas Museum of Art, and the Nasher Sculpture Center attended the training sessions.

Jodie Utter, paper conservator at the Carter, is currently conducting research on Charles Russell’s watercolor technique and materials. The Bruker Trace III-V hand held XRF instrument and a polarizing light microscope are being used to analyze watercolor paintings and pigment samples. The resulting research will be written up and included in an exhibition catalogue for Romance Maker: The Watercolors of Charles Russell. As part of the project, she attended a week long course: Polarizing Light Microscopy for Conservators, at the McCrone Research Institute in Chicago, IL.

In July, Jodie and Claire Barry, paint- ers conservator for the Amon Carter and Kimbell Museums, traveled to Montana and Wyoming to conduct primary research on Charles Russell. They visited the CM Russell Museum in Great Falls, Montana, the State Historical Society in Helena, and the Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody, Wyoming.

In April 2008, Stephanie Watkins, head of paper preservation at the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas at Austin, participated in the Hiromi Wada 2008 tour of the Kansas region of Japan. The trip was supported by AIC’s Carolyn Horton Fund. Laura Bedford, currently studying at Northumbria University, spent a week in Montana at the Kilgarin graduate studies program at the University of Texas at Austin, recently completed treatment on the close to 1000 page manuscript, “Guignol’s Band” by Louis Ferdinand Celine while working with Stephanie.

Nita Maria Greene of Oregon, currently studying at Northumbria University in the UK, spent July and August 2008 interning for a year at the Kimbell. Nita attended the Collaborative Mellon workshop in photograph conservation on 20th-century color photography hosted at MoMA, NY.

Prices include shipping and handling. Make checks payable to WAAC drawn in US dollars on a US bank. For information please contact the WAAC Secretary:
Teresa Moreno
Send prepaid orders to: Donna Williams

WAAC Publications

Handling Guide for Anthropology Collections

Straightforward text is paired with humorous illustrations in 41 pages of “do’s and don’ts” of collection handling. A Guide to Handling Anthropological Museum Collections was written by Arizona State Museum conservator Nundy Oedegaard and illustrated by conservation technician Grace Ketterman. This manual was designed to be used by researchers, docents, volunteers, visitors, students, staff or others who have not received formal training in the handling of museum artifacts. Page-bound and printed on acid-free stock.

Price: $8.85
($6.60 copy for orders >10 copies)

Back Issues of WAAC Newsletter

Back numbers of the Newsletter are available. Issues Vol.1 - Vol.14, #3 (Sept. 1992) are $5/copy. Issues Vol.15 - Vol.29, #3 (Sept. 1997) are $10/copy. Issues Vol.30 (Jan. 2008) and after are $15/copy. A 20% discount will be given to libraries seeking to obtain back issues to complete a “run” and for purchases of ten copies or more of an issue.