

RCWR NEWSLETTER

Spring 1991

A Publication of the Registrars Committee-Western Region

COLLECTING FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

"My goal is to persuade you that we cannot collect for the 21st century the way we have collected in the past." With this statement, Jerry George opened the 1990 meeting of Museums Alaska with a keynote address that was both inspirational and provocative. He illustrated that history is not just a passage of time, but rather a function of change. Change has never been more accelerated or more far-reaching than in our own time. We are transforming the world around us as never before.

American Association for State and Local History directories show an increase from 900 to more than 9,000 historical organizations since 1940. It is not just chance that the number of museums and historical societies has skyrocketed, they have proliferated rapidly in response to this period of accelerated change. According to Mr. George, "museum growth parallels the acceleration of social and technological change."

Old things that are obsolete and rendered useless are kept in one place - the museum. Have we simply become salvage houses: Preserving what is left of vanishing cultures, artistic styles that have been abandoned, and making educational use of what no longer has a practical use? Giving programs on arts and crafts we no longer practice, instruments we no longer play, and songs we no longer sing?

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DEADLY TREASURES: Health Hazards in the Museum

*Nancy Odegaard,
Arizona State Museum*

Museum professionals (and even visitors) may face a variety of risks to their health through improper handling of the artifacts in their collection. In recent years there have been several reports of health problems that resulted from the handling of museum artifacts, usually when the possibility of danger was unsuspected and overlooked. While most artifacts are harmless, hazards exist in almost any museum's collection.

Museum objects may be hazardous in several ways. If the material composition of an object is hazardous, then the object is considered inherently hazardous. Many objects are also hazardous due to manufacturing techniques or aspects of their use. Other objects become hazardous from treatments that they have received since coming to the museum. Hazardous materials require special handling precautions because of their health risks.

If the museum professionals, volunteers, or visitors are exposed to a toxic material associated with an artifact, a number of symptoms may appear. Among the many examples are: nausea, frequent headaches, loss of coordination, drowsiness, blurred vision, breathing difficulty, dizziness, swollen glands, dermatitis, fatigue,

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HAZARDS OF LASER PRINTERS AND COPIERS

In a letter to the *The New England Journal of Medicine* (May 3, 1990), a Dr. Michael Hodgson of the university of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and two colleagues discussed the case of a man who reacted to a laser printer. The 51-year-old man had worked at the same company for 21 years. When a laser printer was installed at his work station the man developed symptoms of nasal congestion, a burning sensation on his skin, headache, and other symptoms. The man had no history of asthma, allergies, hay fever or eczema. Testing showed the man suffered symptoms only after exposure to laser-printer products.

Similar reactions to indoor air pollution produced by printers and copiers are becoming commonplace. Some of the airborne chemicals implicated include:

• ozone;
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FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Friends; these is much news I have to share with you:

From AAM ---

Congratulations to Ted Greenberg, who will be part of an AAM session called, "Make It Through The Big One," about museums in disasters (all types!). The AAM Annual Meeting will take place in Denver, May 19-23, and includes the AAM Registrars Committee meeting, on the 21st, from noon to 2:00 p.m. If you are an AAM member, please be sure to send in your vote on the proposed AAM Constitution Revisions and Bylaws by March 25th. Also the AAM Code of Ethics is being reviewed. If you would like a recent draft copy, please contact me. Two noteworthy Bills: S-359 has been submitted to extend the time limit on the current 1-year window on appreciated property donations and to include all types of appreciated property like stocks, bonds, etc.; S-235 is requiring the Smithsonian to come into compliance with the Repatriation requirements passed last year. The new Indian Arts and Crafts Law by Sen. Inouye makes it unlawful to sell or represent items as Native American that are not in fact Native American in origin.

From WMC ---

At our WMC winter Board meeting, we now have an increased voice by several means; SPC (Standing Professional Committee) break-out meetings scheduled around Board meetings, a newly appointed SPC representative to the Executive Board, Susan McCarthy (who's doing a great job), and a phone chain between the Executive Committee and the rest of us on the WMC Board. Early Registration for the WMC Annual Meeting, September 24-27 in Las Vegas, will close August 28th. (Try sending a large partial payment to take advantage of all early-bird annual meeting discounts.)

Apply early for the several stipends now available from the various museum organizations. A Huge Thanks to Deborah Dunn of Hawaii for her Implementing Repatriation proposal; she will be working with Marty Sullivan, head of the AAM Task Force on Repatriation (and Director of the Heard Museum) to provide a double session at the WMC meetings. There will also be an Exchange Forum on the 26th in which RC-WR is planning to share and exchange innovations and ideas.

At RC-WR ---

My personal appreciation to Susan Melton for her extended duty as our Forms Clearinghouse Coordinator! And thank you to Wendy Welles Franklin for agreeing to head this service. Call Ted Greenberg with your nominations for RC-WR Officers. Candidate statements will be published in the next *Newsletter*. In case you missed it - Mary Suter was the WMC Honoree for the Best All Around Disaster Preparedness Plan at the Annual Meeting opening dinner! We're proud!

Faye Jonason, RC-WR Chair

RC-WR SECRETARY'S REPORT

We are currently in the process of evaluating and updating the member survey to make it more useful and more current. If you have any suggestions or comments, please send them to Jody Hawley Ochoa, Idaho State Historical Society, 610 N. Julia Davis Drive, Boise, ID 83702.

OLD PACKING STUFF - NEW USES?

For the ecologically minded - Sarah Kennington, Fowler Museum, UCLA, has many large bags of bubble-pak, tissue paper, and cardboard boxes. The stuff has been around a year or two, has a shelf life, and has been used to pack ethnographic collections - in other words, it is not pristine. But, it is FREE!! If you are interested contact Sarah, see State Representatives page. They will give preference to you non-profits but will not be exclusive if one doesn't surface.

ARTICLES/REPORTS FOR THE SUMMER RC-WR NEWSLETTER ARE DUE

May 10, 1991

DISCLAIMER:

The RC-WR *Newsletter* acts a source of information. The printing of an article does not mean that RC-WR endorses any suggested treatment, product, or service.

DATES AT A GLANCE

| | | |
|------------------|---|-----------------|
| March | Oregon Museum Association Meeting | Corvallis, OR |
| March 17-19 | AAM "Project Success Through Problem Solving" | Los Angeles, CA |
| March 17-19 | RC-AAM Workshop "Mid-Career Professionals with Responsibilities for Museum Collections" | Los Angeles |
| March 21-22 | ALI-ABA "Legal Problems of Museums Administration" | Los Angeles, CA |
| March 21-24 | Society for California Archaeologists | Sacramento, CA |
| April | Idaho Association of Museums Meeting | Boise, ID |
| April 6 | RC-WR Workshop "Fowler Museum Move" (Check with Sarah for info and exact title) | Los Angeles |
| April 25 | Northern California Registrars Committee "Repatriation - Issues and Alternatives" | Sacramento, CA |
| May 19-23 | AAM - "Forces of Change" | Denver, CO |
| June 13-14 | Washington Museum Association Meeting | Pullman, WA |
| June 15 | Heritage Resources Center Workshop "Generating Earned Income" | Pullman, WA |
| June 30 - July 5 | Museum Management Program "Critical Issues in Museum Management" | Boulder, CO |

MEETINGS FROM THE AASLH CALENDAR:

| | | |
|-----------------|---|----------------------|
| April 9-11 | U.S. Space Foundation, 7th Nat. Space Symposium | Colorado Springs, CO |
| April 11-14 | Organization of American Historians | Louisville, KY |
| April 24-27 | Military History Conference | Honolulu, HI |
| April 24-27 | Western Social Science Association | Reno, NV |
| May 6-11 | Preservation of Natural History Collections | Ottawa, ON |
| May 16-18 | Association of Systematics Collections | College Station, TX |
| May 24-26 | International Institute for Conservation | Vancouver, BC |
| May 29 - June 1 | National Genealogical Society | Portland, OR |
| May 31 - June 2 | Western Association of Women Historians | Assilomar, CA |
| May 31 - June 9 | Victorian Society in America | Newport, RI |
| June 3-4 | American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works | Albuquerque, NM |
| June 16-27 | National Hist. Pub. & Records Commission, Institute for Editing Historical Documents | Madison, WI |
| Aug. 21-24 | AASLH Meeting | Dearborn, MI |

DEADLINES:

| | | |
|----------|--------------|---|
| April 5 | IMS | Professional Services Program |
| April 26 | IMS, MAP I | (Museum Assessment) |
| June 1 | NHPR | CRecords Program |
| June 7 | NEH | Museum Programs Grant |
| June 10 | NEA | Utilization of Museum resources collections presentation, educations and catalogues |
| July 15 | NEH | Travel to Collections |
| July 26 | IMS, MAP II | (Collections Management) |
| Aug. 1 | NEA | Care of Collections: conservation and collection maintenance |
| Aug. 16 | IMS, MAP III | (Public Dimension) |

FROM THE EDITOR

FASB (WHO?) ISSUES NEW "EXPOSURE DRAFT" (WHAT?)

FASB - Financial Accounting Standards Board - a private organization, that is the arm of the Financial Accounting Foundation that sets professional accounting standards for audits, has issued a new "exposure draft" (a new rule that they wish others to examine and comment on). The draft, No. 096-B, is entitled "Accounting for Contributions Received and Contributions Made and Capitalization of Works of Art, Historical Treasures, and Similar Assets" (say that without taking a breath).

FASB proposes three changes that would affect the way we look at (1) pledges, (2) gifts to the collection, and (3) contributed services.

FASB proposes that pledges (such as multi-year membership pledges) be counted as income when the pledge is received. Second, that museums account for all gifts to the collection in monetary terms, and that all museums capitalize their collections. In other words they want us to show the value of our collections as an asset on the balance sheets. Third, that museums count contributions of services if the services "(a) create or enhance other services, (b) are provided by services that normally provide those services for compensations, or (c) are substantially the same as services purchased by the recipient."

Can you imagine the cost and time to appraise the collections and evaluate donated services? Also imagine the way the public will view the financial situation within your museum if the value of the collection is part of the financial asset of the museum?

If interested, and it probably will have an affect on us, contact your auditor for a copy of No. 096-B and send your comments, by May 1, 1991, to: Financial

Accounting Standards Board, File Reference 096-B, 401 Merrit, P. O. Box 5116, Norwalk, CT 06856-5116.

REPATRIATION LAW

Last November, after four years of negotiations, President Bush signed into law HR 5237, The Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act. Thanks to a great deal of effort by AAM officials, and good support from some members of congress, this new law is more favorable to the protection and integrity of the museum collections, as well as opening the channels for the Native American.

If you have Native American materials in your collections, and do not have a copy of Public Law 101-601, write to AAM for a copy. AAM, Government Affairs Department, 1225 Eye Street, NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20005: (202) 289-1818, FAX (202) 289-6578. If you are not a member of AAM your local library should be able to assist you in obtaining a copy.

POSITION AVAILABLE

ASSISTANT CURATOR: The Workman and Temple Family Homestead Museum is a six-acre historic site owned by the City of Industry and managed by Historical Resources, Inc. Under the direct supervision of the museum Curator, the Assistant Curator assists with all aspects of museum registration, collections' care, site maintenance, volunteer training and supervision, and occasional public programs. Duties also include assisting with the development and implementation of a computerized collections management system and system maintenance for a 4,000+ collection. A bachelors degree in history, American studies, art, museum studies, or a closely related field; two to three years experience in collections care and management; excellent writing and speaking skills; and the ability to work effectively with professional

colleagues and the public are required. Knowledge of and experience with artifact handling procedures, storage procedures, and computerized collections management systems are desirable.

Full time - salary dependent upon experience - liberal benefits.

Please send application letter, resume, and three references to: Carol Crilly, Curator, The Workman and Temple Family Homestead Museum, 15415 East Don Julian Road, City of Industry, CA 91745-1029, (818) 968-8492.

OLD FACES - NEW PLACES

Kirsten Oftedahl is the new Collections Manager at Pima Air Museum, Tucson. **Robert Schultz** is the new Registrar for the City of Phoenix Art Collection. Robert comes to the southwest from the Detroit office of the Commission on Art in Public Places.

Stephen Carter is the new Assistant Collections Manager, Fowler Museum of Cultural History, UCLA. Stephen was formerly with the Bowers Museum in Santa Ana, California. Welcome to all of you.

ART AND ART HISTORY THESAURUS

Compiled by the Getty Art History Information Program. Developed by art historians, architects, librarians, visual resource curators, archivists, museum personnel, and thesaurus specialists, this ten-year project is a faceted, hierarchical system of subject terms for museums, libraries, and indexing services. It includes entries for art objects in three categories: the built environment, furnishings and equipment, and visual and verbal communication. A materials category has also been developed. It is available in a hard-copy and an electronic edition.

REPORTS FROM THE NINE STATES

ALASKA

In May the Alaska State Museum will open Russian America - The Forgotten Frontier. With over 60 crates and 600 artifacts, this will be the largest exhibit to come to the state museum. The collection and exhibit sections of the state museum had quite an unexpected challenge with the SITES exhibit "Tracks in the Sky." The exhibit arrived, but all the support artifacts had been deleted. Twenty some objects were borrowed from local collectors and forty-five rarely seen artifacts were selected from the museums collections, making the exhibit very specific to Alaska. The Pratt Museum in Home is preparing a traveling exhibit Darkened Waters: Profile of an Oil Spill. After the exhibit closes on the west coast it will be sent to the Smithsonian in December. Over 200 attended the combined Museums Alaska and Alaska Historical Society November meeting in Anchorage. The Alaska State Museum received \$120,000 from Grants-in-Aid for statewide support of 19 museums or related organizations. Funding ranged from \$2,950 to \$6,500.

ARIZONA

Kirsten Oftedahl is the new Collections Manager at the Pima Air Museum, Tucson. One of her first tasks was to learn how to register aircraft, which requires F.A.A. and Arizona Department of Transportation paperwork. Pima Air Museum is opening a new exhibit, Black Aviators, on March 15. **Robert Schulz** is the new Registrar for the City of Phoenix Art Collection. He will manage all the art in the Percent for Arts program, the city's portable works and the Municipal Collection. The Mesa Southwest Museum is presenting, through June, an exhibit of stereopticon cards on the Arizona territory (1870-1912). A major permanent public art collection opened

at Sky Harbor Airport, the collection will be complimented by a series of changing exhibits throughout Terminal 3 and 4. An upcoming exhibit will feature costumes from Phoenix's sister city Chegdu, China.

HAWAII

Janet Ness and **Deborah Dunn** held a forms sharing session at the fall Hawai'i Museums Association November meeting in Waimea, Kaua'i. Invitations, with RC-WR brochures, were sent to directors of all HMA member organizations, urging them to join and attend the session. It was decided that in 1991 we will have informal quarterly breakfast meetings, the first is scheduled for late February.

IDAHO

The Idaho Association of Museums is holding its annual meeting in late April. **Jody Hawley Ochoa**, **Mary Suter**, and **Phyllis Morgret** will be on hand to explain registration procedures to attendees.

OREGON

Benton County Historical Museum and Oregon State University's Horner Museum will co-host the early March Oregon Museums Association meeting in Corvallis. **Lucy Skjelstad**, Horner Museum Director, has arranged a program to focus on board development. This is an excellent opportunity for registrars and collections managers to meet and network. A lunch-time session is planned to discuss common concerns and future workshop topics.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Suzanne Guerra reports that the Disaster Preparedness Workshop she attended last fall was perfect preparation for moving the California Department of Parks and Recreation's museum section and program section

offices in the midst of winter. Consolidating from four buildings into two was an expected logistical problem; but coping with a flu epidemic, frozen plumbing and still unfinished building were not on the list. She is still looking for boxes and discovered the latest casualty to be a now permanently jammed file cabinet. Great apologies and thanks to all for their patience in getting their information request filled. She promises to have either a blow-torch or a locksmith deal with the last (hopefully) remaining problem.

Preparations are being made for a workshop on repatriation, and a tour of the new facility, in late April. The new facility now houses the Permanent Statewide Archeological Records, in computer, print and photographic form, a new archeological study area and improved archaeological collections storage. The general collections, in storage at the old facility, will continue to be inventoried and reorganized.

REPATRIATION WORKSHOP

The Northern California Registrars Committee will present a one-day workshop on "Repatriation - Issues and Alternatives," on Thursday, April 25, in Sacramento at the new office for the Museum Collections Program of the California Department of Parks and Recreation. This session will review the major issues: the technical and logistical implications for museums both large and small.

While the controversy surrounding the issue has focused on larger institutions, any law would also be applicable to small museums and historical societies. The process could potentially require the most detailed documentation, and specialized skills typically available only to larger institutions.

Who defines "cultural patrimony" and "burial-associated"? What is involved in an inventory of these collections? Are there special procedures and

precautions? What are the associated costs? How does this affect exhibits, interpretation and research?

We will begin with an overview of the direction of current state and federal legislation. We will then discuss the procedures and results of the most comprehensive inventory of these collections in recent years, conducted by the Department of Parks and Recreation from 1986-1989. Later, we will tour the special collections and records and storage area, and access the newly developed computer database. Finally, there will be a discussion of the long-term impacts on the institution.

Registration is limited and registrars will be given priority, however archaeologists, administrators and curators are encouraged to attend. Program fee of \$15 includes lunch. To register contact Suzanne Guerra, Northern California Representative, see address on State Representative page.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

As mentioned in the last RC-WR *Newsletter*, I am planning an RC-WR workshop. The targeted date is Saturday, May 4. This is intended to be a show-and-tell of our conservation survey, and preparation and execution of the move of our collections at the Fowler Museum of Cultural History. In order to allow optimum participation attendance may be limited, if you are interested please respond quickly. A flyer will go out shortly to RC-WR members with registration information. RC-WR Southern California members - would you like to host an RC-WR meeting? Our membership could become more familiar with your facility and what you are doing - your innovative exhibit - your clever collection management project - or just an informal tour. If you are interested in expanding our meetings and out knowledge of each other contact me, Sarah Kennington, (213) 825-4563.

WASHINGTON

The Washington Museum Association meeting will be at Washington State University, Pullman, on June 13 and 14. On June 15 is the Washington Heritage Resource Center Workshop "Generating Earned Income." On the morning of June 14, the RC-WR breakfast meeting, with a roundtable discussion on "What's Old, What's New, and What Works for You", will begin at 7:30. The Burke Museum, Seattle, will reopen its doors on March 15.

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Historical significance is a result of change - where there is no change there is no history. There has been more change in the 20th century than ever before, so we should have more history to document than ever before, but are we stuck in the past? Is history over? Will future generations have a distorted view of history? Are we becoming preoccupied with dedicating resources to the conservation of the existing collections at the expense of contemporary collecting? Will we leave well cared for objects from the 18th and 19th centuries and a historical gap with nothing from the 20th century?

We were asked two key questions: Is history in Alaska over? Do we have all the money that we need? It was suggested that if we answer no to these questions then we have the same problems as every museum. In fact, we may be in a better position than most because we serve a well-defined area or region.

We can no longer afford to be passive collectors and simply take what comes in the door. We need to break away from the unconscious policy of waiting to collect history "until after its' relics have become rare, expensive, and in disrepair." Why not collect artifacts when they are abundant and cheap?

Mr. George reiterated that history is not a function of time but of change. This phenomenal acceleration of history in the 20th century needs to be documented. It is absolutely necessary for museums to collect wisely. We should not do this in a vacuum. It is time for us to consider collaboration seriously. With so much to document we should be sure that there is little or no duplication of efforts. Collection statements and policies should provide this necessary guidance.

Mr. George challenged us to provide this special service to our communities. "We keep them from forgetting important things they did and thought and created. Just think how hard it has been to reconstruct human history prior to the last three or four hundred years. Hopefully, we can help our communities keep their bearings, get some insight into what has happened to them from decade to decade and generation to generation, as the whirlwind of change swirls more and more rapidly through our whole society."

Gerald "Jerry" George is past president of the American Association for State and Local History

*Reported by Judy Hauck,
Alaska State RC-WR
Representative*

*Reprinted from NETWORK,
the Museums Alaska
Newsletter*

(Ed. - This seems applicable to many of us.)

WELCOME TO OUR NEW FORMS CLEARINGHOUSE COORDINATOR -

Wendy Welles Franklin, State Park Interpreter II for the California Department of Parks and Recreation.

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- the toner's particles of carbon black;
- the toner's carrier, which are usually microscopic beads of steel, glass or silica;
- cadmium sulfide;
- zinc oxide; and
- some organic polymers (e.g. styrene butadiene) and their combustion products.

These pollutants may cause allergies, irritation of the respiratory tract, and other effects. Except for ozone, the pollutants are usually produced in very small amounts.

OZONE is created when electricity or ultraviolet radiation converts oxygen (O₂) in the air to ozone (O₃). Laser printers as well as other types of dry copiers all produce ozone because they rely on the same basic process. In this process, light is reflected onto an electrically charged drum. The surface of the drum is photoconductive and changes its electrostatic charge whenever the light hits it. This creates the image which will then either attract or repel the toner. Copiers which use drums that are negatively charged created more ozone pollution than those using positively charged ones.

Ozone is a potent respiratory irritant. It also causes mutation in bacteria and is therefore suspected of having other chronic effects. Ozone's toxicity is the reason a very low Threshold Limit (TLV)* for worker's exposure has been set for ozone. The table below compares ozone's TLV with those of some other gases.

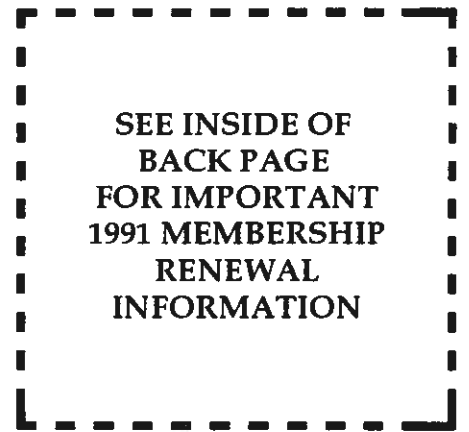
CONTROL OF COPIER POLLUTANTS

It is possible for most people to work safely around these machines if the new indoor ventilation standards of the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-conditioning Engineers are met. These standards require 20 cubic feet per minute of outside air per person. Unfortunately, many enclosed air-conditioned buildings recycle much of their air, causing pollution levels to rise. Never locate copiers in closets or small unvented spaces.

Purchase copiers from sales people who are familiar with these negative aspects of their products. Try to purchase copiers that operate with a positively charged drum. Obtain MSDSs on the toner and any other chemicals used with your machine.

Some machines can be factory equipped with ozone "traps" or "filters." These are very limited in their ability to remove ozone and detailed data on their performance and maintenance should be obtained. Keep the machines well serviced, since poorly maintained copiers produce more ozone. And if the sharp, "after a storm" odor of ozone is clearly detectible, take steps to reduce your exposure.

Reprinted from ACTS FACTS,
Monona Rossol, Editor, 181 Thompson St., #23, New York, NY 10012. October, 1990, Vol. 4, No. 10



| GAS | TLVs | in Parts per Million (ppm) | | | |
|------------------------|------|----------------------------|--|---|---|
| carbon dioxide | 5000 | ppm | Time Weighted Average* | | |
| freons (most types) | 1000 | " | " | " | " |
| ammonia | 25 | " | " | " | " |
| sulfur dioxide | 2 | " | " | " | " |
| formaldehyde | 1 | " | " | " | " |
| phosgene (warfare gas) | .1 | " | " | " | " |
| ozone | .1 | ppm | Ceiling (which means even less exposure is allowed than for phosgene above)* | | |

* Threshold Limit Values (TLVs) are workplace air quality standards set by the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists. TLVs are designed to protect the majority of healthy adult workers from adverse effects. There are three types:

1. TLV-Time Weighted Averages, which are airborne concentrations averaged over the eight hour working day.
2. TLV-Short Term Exposure Limits, which are 15 minute average concentrations that should not be exceeded.
3. TLV-Ceiling, which are concentrations that should not be exceeded even for an instant. Ozone can be detected by most people at or near this limit.

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persistent cough, and eye irritation. Children are particularly vulnerable due to their smaller size and higher metabolism.

Toxic substances can enter the human body by absorption through the skin, ingestion, or inhalation. Examples of potentially hazardous materials found in museum collections is listed below, along with suggestions for handling them safely.

Sources of toxins that may be absorbed through the skin:

- Packaged medicines or drugs
- Infected medical or dental equipment
- Drug paraphernalia
- Mercury from thermometers or the backs of deteriorating mirrors
- Poisoned arrow points, darts, and spears
- Botulism from exploded canned foods (glass or metal)
- Beads made of poisonous seeds or other plant material

Gloves and aprons should be worn when handling these types of objects.

Sources of toxic particles that may be ingested or inhaled through the nose or mouth:

- Biocidal treatments on bird and mammal mounts, feathers, fur, buckskin, and textiles such as arsenic. DDT (dichlorodiphenyl trichloromethane), borax, white lead, and strychnine
- Fungicide treatments to the backs of 19th century paintings on canvas with mercuric chloride
- Sybarized (an after manufacture moth-proofing) textiles
- Ancient biocidal treatments, including lead or lead pigments
- Dusts and pollen from archaeological materials

- Degraded silks and fiberglass
- Mineral specimens such as asbestos, cinnabar, orpiment, and malachite
- Copper/bronze metal corrosion products
- Lead artifacts (solder joints, bullets, pewter) with white corrosion products
- Lead or uranium glazed ceramics
- Potassium cyanide cleaning residues on silver and gold objects
- Flaky or powdery pigments such as zinc white, lead white, red lead, titanium dioxide, cadmium red and yellow, cobalt blue, chromium green, Naples yellow or Paris green

A dust particle mask should be worn when handling objects with these materials.

Sources of toxic vapors that may be inhaled through the nose or mouth, or irritate the eyes:

- Old newspaper dust
- Printing ink ingredients such as lubricating oils or cyanide
- Di-acetate photographic negatives
- Nitrate photographic negatives
- Decomposing or naturally deteriorating celluloid
- Iron objects (armor) treated with vapor corrosion inhibitors
- Silver and copper objects treated with tarnish inhibitors such as bensotriazole
- Papier-mache objects made with asbestos fibers
- PDB (paradichlorobenzene) or naphthalene repellent
- Fumigated objects (ethylene oxide, methyl bromide)

Eye protection and an air-purifying respirator with proper cartridge and filter should be worn when handling objects with these conditions.

Most of the problems associated with the handling of hazardous museum artifacts are dose related. That is, their ability to cause health problems is related to the degree and length of exposure. Risks can be minimized through improved handling practices. Professional staff and volunteers working with museum collections should be alerted to the possibility of hazardous materials. The public should never be allowed to handle artifacts that are suspected of potential health risk. Anyone suspecting that a specimen (or other material or procedure) poses a health risk should obtain the appropriate safety equipment and understand the special storage and handling methods required for the material.

Reprinted from the December, 1990 Museum Association of Arizona Newsletter

DATA STANDARDS AND VOCABULARY CONTROL

A number of museums within the western region are currently examining the feasibility of a systematic approach to lexicons in their database systems. The possibility of internal consistency would also open an inter-museum communications system. Four northern California ARGUS system users, The Oakland, Haggin, and Treganza museums, and California State Parks and Recreation are collaborating on a project that would consist of the development of terminology control and information sharing networks.

Russel Hartman, Collections Manager of the Anthropology Department of the California Academy of Sciences is working on data standards for geography and its function or use. They are using the Filemaker Pro program on MAC PC's. He is particularly interested in broadly defined geographic fields to accommodate objects for which only a general regional point of origin can be determined and in categories relating to use.

The Museum Computer Network has a NEH-funded committee (Committee Interchange of Museum Information) working to evolve a communication protocol for exchanging museum information. CIMI wishes to encourage vendors, user groups and developers of existing systems to cooperate in the establishment of a common base of communications. They welcome your ideas.

INFORMATIVE TIPS

ACCOUNTANTS FOR PUBLIC INTEREST

Do you need a volunteer accountant to help your non-profit organization? For one near you contact - API, 1625 Eye Street NW, Suite 717, Washington, DC 20006 (202) 659-3797.

MUSEUMLINE

Have you tried this AAM federal

legislation development information service? The 24-hour a day service is kept up-to-date, and the only cost is the long-distance call. (412) 572-6410.

THE OVERVIEW OF ENDOWMENT PROGRAMS

In its mid-year edition, this publication provides information on available grants, application deadlines, how to receive application forms and information contacts. NEH Overview, Room 406, 1100 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20506 (202) 786-0438.

CASSETTE LENDING LIBRARY

Audio cassettes from sessions of various national and regional museum association meetings and one video cassette are available for lending to RC-WR Members. The cassettes will be loaned for a period of two weeks to members in good standing. Return postage will be the responsibility of the borrower. Only one tape or tape set will be loaned at one time. Requests should be sent to: Louis Goldich, Registrar, San Diego Museum of Art, P.O. Box 2107, San Diego, California 92112-2107.

1990 Annual Meeting of the American Association of Museums

Conservation Decisions: Preserving the Evidence of Cultural Diversity
The Next Step: Developing and Implementing a Long-Range Conservation Plan
Emergency Planning: Mitigating the Disaster
Integrating With Indemnity
Surviving a Museum Fire: How Prepared is Your Museum?
Exhibition Hot Spots for the 90's

1990 Annual Meeting of the American Association for State and Local History

The New Security and Fire Standards for Historic Sites
Climate Control Within Historic Structures
Lessons Learned: Hurricane Hugo and the San Francisco/Oakland Earthquake
The Right Choice: MAP, CAP, or CP
The Next Step: Developing and Implementing a Long-Range Conservation Plan
Dateline: Philadelphia Report on the Collections Documentation Project
Preserving Archives - So Many Problems, So Little Time

1990 Annual Meeting of the Texas Association of Museums

Computerization
Original or Reproduction: Which to Use?
Conservation Assessment Program: A New IMS Grant Opportunity
Professional Standards for the Care of Teaching Collections
Native American Sacred Objects and Human Remains: Issues for Museums
Computerized Collection Management & Education: New Alliance?
Statewide Disaster Assistance Network Project

1989 Annual Meeting of the American Association of Museums

Condition Reporting: Techniques, Implications, Accountability Insurance
Borrowing From Non-Traditional Sources
Information Processing: Dealing With Old and Diverse Accessioning Systems and Records
Expanding Collections Care - Volunteers in the Workplace
Exhibit Design and Construction Techniques for Guard Cost Reduction

RC-WR 1991 PAID MEMBERSHIPS as of February 24, 1991

If you do not see your name listed below, please send in your 1991 dues today!! Use the membership form inside the back page of this Newsletter! If you are a complimentary member, please return the form confirming your interest in receiving RC-WR mailings. Only members who have paid for 1991 and confirmed complimentary members for 1991 are listed below. This is the LAST Newsletter you will receive if you do not renew your membership! Also - if you want to be listed in the 1991 RC-WR Membership Directory, please renew NOW!

| | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Abel-Vidor, Suzanne (NC) | Greenberg, Ted (NC) | Pateman, Roy (OT) |
| Alameda, Andi (SC) | Guerra, Suzanne (NC) | Pope, Barbara (SC) |
| Anastasiadis, Olivia (SC) | | Prlain, Genevieve (NC) |
| Arakawa, June (HI) | Haisten, Heather (NC) | |
| | Hall, Shawn (NV) | Quinn, Jill (SC) |
| Bailie, R.J. (OT) | Harjes, Gloria (NV) | |
| Bonow, Tim (WA) | Hart, Donna (WA) | Ralls, Constance (NC) |
| Bryant, Dianne (NC) | Hauck, Judith (AK) | Ratcliff, Dan (SC) |
| Buck, Rebecca (OT) | Hellyer, Tirrell (WA) | Roberts, Barbara (WA) |
| Buxton, Marty (NC) | Horn, Beverly (AK) | Ryan, David (OT) |
| | Hughes, Christina (NC) | |
| Caldwell-Meeks, Kim (AZ) | Hughes, Elaine (AZ) | Salz, Kay (SC) |
| Calica, Beulah (OR) | Hulse, Larry (NC) | Schaffer, Richard (AZ) |
| Campbell, Lynn (NC) | | Schultz, Robert (AZ) |
| Case, Mary (OT) | Iwasaki, Patsy (HI) | Seely, Jana (SC) |
| Caswell, John (SC) | | Segal, Terry (OT) |
| Chase, Sheree (HI) | Jonason, Faye (SC) | Slade, Becky (OR) |
| Chun, Corinne (HI) | | Smart, Elizabeth (NC) |
| Clark, Andrea (SC) | King, Glenda (ID) | Stoiber, Phil (WA) |
| Clewell, Kathleen (SC) | Kirkpatrick, Nancy (OT) | Streicher, Anne (SC) |
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| Colburn, Charles (OT) | Knudsen, Sonya (NC) | |
| Confer, Deborah (OR) | Koppy, Ann (OR) | Tarpey, Sean (OT) |
| Crawford, Suzan (UT) | Koster, Anna (NC) | Teags, William (AZ) |
| Crouch, Catherine (SC) | | Thayer, Laura (WA) |
| Cuadra, Carlos (SC) | Ladden, Patrick (OT) | |
| | Lank, Ellsworth (OT) | West, Kristen (SC) |
| Dickson, Jean (NC) | Lank, Mark (OT) | Westfeldt, Cathryn (WA) |
| Dunn, Deborah (HI) | Legakis, Sally (NC) | Williams, Mary Jane (AZ) |
| | Lindgren, Louise (WA) | |
| Edgar, Kathryn (AZ) | | Yee, Carolyn (NC) |
| Ellis, Linda (NC) | Marshall, Delee (SC) | |
| Elliston, Billie (NC) | Mastel, Debbie (NC) | Zentner, Barbara (OR) |
| Epstein, David (OT) | Maurer, Lisa (OT) | |
| Erbacher, Ann (OT) | Messinger, Michelle (NC) | National Cultural History & Open Air Museum (OT) |
| Erdman, Steve (NC) | Miller, Carol (SC) | |
| | Montgomery, Renee (SC) | |
| Farrior, Susan (SC) | Moodie, Kathleen (NC) | STATE CODES |
| Ferrera, Cheryl (NC) | Moore, Patricia Anne (SC) | AK (Alaska) |
| Feucht, Lora (ID) | Morgret, Phyllis (ID) | AZ (Arizona) |
| Francis, Frances (OT) | Murphy, Elaine (HI) | NC (Northern California) |
| Frandsen, Rex (HI) | Myette, Ellen (OT) | SC (Southern California) |
| Franklin, Wendy (NC) | | HI (Hawaii) |
| Fulton, Martha (WA) | Norberg, Deborah (NC) | ID (Idaho) |
| | | NV (Nevada) |
| Gates, Kittu (OT) | Ochoa, Jody Hawley (ID) | OR (Oregon) |
| Gilbert, Cathy (SC) | Oftedahl, Kirsten (AZ) | UT (Utah) |
| Gilmore, Jean (OT) | Otte, Stacey (SC) | WA (Washington) |
| Goldich, Louis (SC) | | OT (Out of region) |
| Graler, Kathie (SC) | Panlaqui, Carol (SC) | |

**SECOND NOTICE
1991 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

The response to the Winter Newsletter 1991 membership renewal form has been wonderful! We have decided to repeat the form in this issue, hoping that all of you who have not yet renewed will please use the handy form on this page and renew your membership in the Registrars Committee-Western Region for the 1991 calendar year right now! You will not receive a separate renewal reminder letter if you cut out and use the form below. This will save the RC-WR the expense of mailing out reminders.

Annual dues for membership in the RC-WR are \$10.00 per year. 1991 memberships run from January 1 to December 31, 1991. Please be prompt this year and send in your 1991 dues today! THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST ISSUE OF THE NEWSLETTER unless your 1991 dues are received before the next mailing in May 1991. It is not fair to the members that pay their dues promptly to continue to send mailings to long-time lapsed members. This includes office holders and state representatives!

On another page of this Newsletter is a list of all paid 1991 members as of February 24, 1991. If you have questions about your membership, please contact Kathy Clewell, RC-WR Treasurer (619)325-7186.

We would appreciate receiving a form back from all Complimentary Members (RC officers from other regions, newsletter editors, etc.). Please check the appropriate box saying you either do or do not want to continue receiving RC-WR mailings. If you are still receiving complimentary mailings and are no longer an office holder, we would appreciate your informing us of the officer from your region who should be on the complimentary mailing list.

If the person listed on the mailing label is no longer at your institution or business, and you have inherited the membership because the business or institution pays the dues, please fill in your correct new member information and send it with your check.

Please use this form for new members as well as renewing members. Just photocopy extra copies for co-workers wanting to join the RC-WR.

Please check the mailing label on the reverse of this form for accuracy. Leave the label attached, fill out the information below, cut off the form and mail with your dues check or money order to:

Kathy Clewell, Treasurer RC-WR
Palm Springs Desert Museum
P.O. Box 2288
Palm Springs, CA 92263

Checks should be made out to:
Registrars Committee-Western Region
or RC-WR
(NOT to the treasurer by name)

=====

RC-WR 1991 Membership Form

If mailing label is correct please check here or make additions or corrections below:

Name: _____

Position: _____

Institution: _____

Preferred Mailing Address: _____ business home

Work phone _____ FAX _____ Home phone _____

Complimentary members only: Continue RC-WR mailings Do not continue mailings Change to above person

I am a new member taking over an old membership Please delete the name on the mailing label from your list.

This is a new membership in the following membership category:

- Voting (Open to professionals associated with non-profit organizations who reside in the Western Region, such as Registrars, Collections Managers, Conservators, Curators, Directors, Students, Volunteers, etc.)
- Non-Voting (Open to professionals associated with a for-profit organization such as shipping companies, customs brokers, insurance firms, suppliers of materials and services, etc., or museum professionals residing outside the Western Region.)

All contributions beyond the annual \$10.00 dues are welcome and help to further the goals and programs of the RC-WR.

Membership dues \$10.00 + contribution \$ _____ = Total amount enclosed \$ _____
(Checks and money orders should be in U.S. dollars and made payable to Registrars Committee-Western Region or RC-WR)

Mail to: Kathy Clewell, Treasurer RC-WR - Palm Springs Desert Museum - P.O. Box 2288 - Palm Springs, CA 92263

**RC-WR OFFICERS -
1990-1991**

CHAIRPERSON

Faye Jonason
Registrar
California Afro-American
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Los Angeles, CA 90037
213-744-2023 - FAX 213-744-2050

SECRETARY

Jody Hawley Ochoa
Registrar
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TREASURER

Kathleen Clewell
Registrar
Palm Springs Desert Museum
P. O. Box 2288
Palm Springs, CA 92263
619-325-7186 - FAX 619-327-5069

**APPOINTED
POSITIONS 1990-1991**

DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

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Registrar
San Diego Museum of Art
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Phyllis Morgret
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College of Southern Idaho
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NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

Dan Ratcliff
Assistant to the Registrar

San Diego Museum of Art
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619-232-7931, ext 230
FAX 619-232-9367

**SERVICE/SUPPLY
INFORMATION COORDINATOR**

Betty J. Long
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Maryhill Museum of Art
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Goldendale, WA 98620
509-733-3733

NEW READS EDITOR

Sheri Saperstein
Registrarial Assistant
Los Angeles County Museum of
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**DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
COORDINATOR**

Joe Wiley
Registrar
Walt Disney Imagineering
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RC-WR ARCHIVIST

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Associate Registrar
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Golden Gate Park
San Francisco, CA 94118-4598
415-668-8921

NEWSLETTER ARCHIVIST

Carolyn Yee
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NOMINATIONS CHAIRPERSON

Ted Greenberg
Registrar
The Fine Arts Museums of San
Francisco
Golden Gate Park
San Francisco, CA 94118

415-750-3601 - FAX 415-750-7682

**FORMS CLEARING HOUSE
COORDINATOR**

Wendy Welles Franklin
State Park Interpreter II
CA Dept. of Parks & Recreation
Office of Interpretive Services
2505 Port St
West Sacramento, CA 95691
916-322-4630 - FAX 916-327-5779

**STATE
REPRESENTATIVES
1990-1991**

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Registrar
Alaska State Museum
395 Whittier Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1718
907-465-2901 - FAX 907-465-2976

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Lennee Eller
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Sky Harbor Art Program
Administrative Offices, T-3
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Curator
CA Dept. of Parks & Recreation
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UCLA Fowler Museum of
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HAWAII

Deborah Dunn
Registrar/Collections Manager

The Contemporary Museum
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808-526-1322 - FAX 808-536-5973
and
Janet G. Ness
Acting Registrar
Bishop Museum
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Honolulu, HI 96817-0916
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Idaho Museum of Natural
History
Idaho State University
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Assistant Director/Registrar
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702-738-3418

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Assistant Director
Horner Museum
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Gloria D. Scoville
Art Registrar
Museum of Church History and
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Salt Lake City, UT 84150
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Patricia Laughlin
Registrar/Collections Manager
Steilacoom Historical Museum
Association
P. O. Box 88016
Steilacoom, WA 98388-0016
206-584-4133

**SAN DIEGO MUSEUM OF ART
P. O. BOX 2107
SAN DIEGO, CA 92112-2107**

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