



# SPNHC Newsletter

Society for the Preservation  
of Natural History Collections

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Recent years have proven to be especially challenging for collection institutions. In response to a changing economy and political priorities, organizations have been forced to institute cut-backs in personnel and other collections resources. Concurrently, government funding agencies have been threatened, reduced, and impaired in their ability to support ongoing collection management and care programs. As a result, curatorial and collections personnel have been required to assume additional responsibilities and to operate with fewer resources.

In times such as these, it is important for us not only to work harder, but also to work "smarter" in forwarding our collections care and management goals. Focused on meeting daily deadlines, and carrying out traditional responsibilities, we sometimes lose touch with the resources that can enable us to work more efficiently and to solve daily challenges. Or, we may take for granted the resources that we have come to appreciate.

For over a decade, the Society of the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC) has served as a focus for preservation and management concerns. In addition to the forum it provides at annual meetings, through this newsletter, and most recently through the internet and the new Leaflet series, the SPNHC provides a critical, refereed outlet for new information and research on collections management and care. In an effort to better address our current needs, the SPNHC also has reassessed Society goals and is developing a workable strategic plan for the future (see the following article by Grant Hughes).

The implementation of this plan, however, requires a commitment on the part of SPNHC's members to contribute to the operations of the organization, including committees, publications, annual meetings, and other outreach activities. As professionalism is an integral part of collection activities, so too is the curation of a strong professional organization and a journal to maintain standards and to preserve collection goals.

As I conclude my term as President of SPNHC, I would like to thank all those who have contributed to the rapid development of our Society and to the advancement of professional collections care and management standards. The Council members and Committee chairs, listed on the back of the Newsletter, are to be commended

for their excellent work in managing the operations of the Society, and in providing timely publications and workshops, and well-organized annual meetings at reasonable cost. All have worked long hours for many years and I am grateful to each person for their unselfish contribution, especially during the last two years.

In conclusion, I ask that those of you who are new to this organization, or have not yet contributed your time to SPNHC, to please do so. Regardless of the size of the contribution, your professional efforts are important and would be greatly appreciated. Second, I suggest that you take advantage of early airline fares and reduced fees for advanced registration today, and fill out your registration form for the SPNHC Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. As discussed in the last Newsletter, this meeting promises to be an exciting one, both in location and for collections. Bring your family, your concerns, and new ideas to share with your colleagues. I look forward to seeing you there.

Carolyn L. Rose  
President, SPNHC

## SPNHC INITIATES STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

The Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections has initiated a long range planning process as mentioned in the fall 1995 newsletter. The purpose is to develop a general strategic direction for the next five years to the year 2000.

As a first step, a sessional Long Range Planning Committee was formed to review where we are as a Society and where we wish to be in the future. The Committee was appointed by President Carolyn Rose and is chaired by President-Elect Grant Hughes. Other committee members are Gerald Fitzgerald, Kristine Hagland, Scott Lanyon, James Solomon and Stephen Williams.

The Committee met in Toronto on June 1, 1995. We were joined by Elizabeth Taylor (Secretary), Elizabeth Merritt (Education and Training Committee), and Elaine Hoagland (observer from the Association of Systematics Collections). During the day, a draft assessment of the Society and tentative five-year vision was prepared (see

below).

The assessment was reviewed by Council and Committee Chairs at the Second Council Meeting in Toronto. It was agreed that the information should be worked up and then circulated for comment to the general membership in this newsletter.

#### *Details of Draft Long Range Plan*

The following mission statement, strategic priorities, and five-year vision are presented as a working-draft for feedback by SPNHC members. Please mail or e-mail comments and suggestions to Grant Hughes (address below). Your responses will guide revisions of the plan which will then be reviewed by Council at the 1996 annual meeting. The finalized Long Range Plan will be used to set priorities for the 1996-97 activities and beyond.

#### *Mission Statement*

Three possible mission statements were reviewed with preference given to the following:  
The mission of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections is to support improved preservation, conservation, and management of natural history collections.

#### *Strategic Priorities*

The Committee discussed three strategic priorities. By focusing on these areas it may be possible to develop measurable factors to gauge improvement in what we're doing. These priorities are as follows:

- To protect collections by supporting research and development of collection care techniques.
- To serve members by providing educational and support services that enable them to better care for natural history collections.
- To serve the public by improving the understanding of the value of natural history collections and the role of preservation, conservation, and collection management in maintaining these collections.

#### *Five-year Vision*

The Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections will be widely recognized as a vital leading international, interdisciplinary organization that facilitates the improved preservation of natural history collections and serves the interest of the SPNHC membership.

#### *Goals:*

- increase knowledge of management and care for natural history collections and access to this knowledge;
- increase professionalism in collections management and care;
- expand membership and participation in Society activities;
- increase awareness of natural history collection preservation needs throughout the world;
- increase collaboration with other organizations to

implement SPNHC goals;

- promote SPNHC's recognition in the natural history and museum communities.

#### *Your Comments are Requested*

The Long Range Planning Committee is working for you. Please feel free to comment on the mission statement, strategic priorities or five-year goals. Please send your comments to Grant Hughes (Royal British Columbia Museum; 675 Belleville Street; Victoria, British Columbia, CANADA V8V 1X4; fax 604-953-4336; e-mail gwhughes@rbml01.rbcm.gov.bc.ca).

### MISSION OF ASC

In 1995, the Association of Systematics Collections (ASC) started publishing their mission statement in the heading of the ASC Newsletter. As the SPNHC membership considers the mission of the Society, it would be appropriate to be aware of ASC intentions so that the missions might complement one another. The ASC Mission Statement is as follows: "The mission of the Association of Systematics Collections is to support and enhance natural history collections, their human resources, and the institutions that house them, for the benefit of science and society."

### NEW SPNHC PUBLICATION AVAILABLE

#### **Storage of Natural History Collections: A Preventive Conservation Approach**

The new SPNHC publication, *Storage of Natural History Collections: A Preventive Conservation Approach* is now available. This huge undertaking, which was co-edited by Carolyn Rose, Catharine Hawks, and Hugh Genoways, includes the work of 37 authors and more than 100 reviewers, editorial assistants, illustrators, and others who donated their time to the project. The 458 page book (x + 448), includes five sections, a glossary of 262 terms used in the book, and an 18 page index. The five sections, containing 29 chapters, include: "Creating and Managing Storage Facilities", "Creating and Monitoring Storage Facilities", "Selecting and Testing Storage Equipment and Materials", "Storing Archival Collections and Collection Documentation", and "Funding for Collections Care." As the Preface states ". . . this new text provides the basic information required to select storage approaches that are appropriate in a particular set of circumstances, and to make informed judgments about all aspects of collection environments."

The Society extends a sincere thank you to all of those who donated their time to the production and facilitation of the new storage book, especially Carolyn Rose, Cathy Hawks, Hugh Genoways, Julie Golden, Sue McLaren, John Simmons, Stephen Williams, and members of the

Publications Committee who served as reviewers for each chapter. They included: Marilyn Massaro, Julianne Snider, Linda Thomas, and Janet Waddington. Additionally, we are grateful to the Smithsonian Institution for facilities and finances to conduct the project, and especially to the Institute for Museum Services for providing a Professional Services Award to produce and print both storage books.

Both the new book, and the 2nd printing (new binding) of the *Ideas and Practical Solutions* book, are available from Julia Golden (Department of Geology; The University of Iowa; 121 Trowbridge Hall; Iowa City; Iowa 52242-1379) for \$36.00 each (includes regular US mail rate). Both books are available as a set for \$70.00.

**SPNHC 1996 ANNUAL MEETING**

The 1996 meetings will be in Philadelphia and hosted by the Academy of Natural Sciences. Registration fees will be as follows:

Members (before March 31)	\$70 (US)
Non members " " "	\$75 (US)
Members (after March 31)	\$75 (US)
Non members " " "	\$80 (US)

Workshop (*Valuation and Insurance of Natural History Collections*) fees will be as follows:

Members (before March 31)	\$35 (US)
Non members " " "	\$40 (US)
Members (after March 31)	\$40 (US)
Non members " " "	\$50 (US)

A full day field trip is planned to Winterthur and the Delaware Museum of Natural History (Wednesday, June 12). Afternoon trips are planned to The Philadelphia Museum of Art, The Philadelphia Zoo (including behind-the-scenes), and the Old City/Independence Hall area.

**AGENDA FOR THE 11th ANNUAL GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING**

Friday, June 14, 1996 10:30 A.M.

1. Call to order
2. Minutes of the 1995 General Business Meeting
3. Report of the Treasurer
4. Report of the President
5. Reports of the Standing Committees
  - 5.1 Archives
  - 5.2 Awards and Recognition
  - 5.3 Bylaws
  - 5.4 Conference
  - 5.5 Conservation
  - 5.6 Documentation
  - 5.7 Education and Training
  - 5.8 Election
  - 5.9 Finance

- 5.10 Membership
- 5.11 Publications
- 5.12 Resources
6. Reports of the Sessional Committees and Representatives
  - 6.1 Long Range Planning
  - 6.2 Committee for Liaison with WCCR
  - 6.3 AIC Representative Report
  - 6.4 NIC Representative Report
7. Old Business
8. New Business
9. Announcements
10. Adjournment

**1996 PROXY SOLICITATION**

If you cannot attend the meeting, you may designate another member in good standing to act on your behalf. Please fill out the form of proxy below and give it to the person named or forward it by May 15th to Elizabeth Taylor, SPNHC Secretary (Royal British Columbia Museum; 675 Belleville Street; Victoria, B.C.; Canada V8V 1X4).

**INSTRUMENT OF PROXY**

I, the undersigned member of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC), hereby appoint Carolyn L. Rose, President of the Society, or, failing her,

\_\_\_\_\_ (please name an alternative, a member in good standing)

to vote on my behalf at the Annual Business Meeting of the General Membership of the Society on June 14, 1996 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**COMMITTEE NEWS**

**Awards and Recognition.** The Committee has received its first proposals for the Faber Award Funds. The Faber Award is a competitive cash award for deserving research projects involving management, care, conservation, or use of natural history collections. The proposals are being reviewed by the Committee, and recommendations will be sent to Council following the review process.

**Conference.** The Committee has identified sites for the 1996 (Academy of Sciences, Philadelphia) and 1997 meetings (University of Wisconsin, Madison). Discussions are continuing with the American Institute of Conservation (AIC) to coordinate a joint meeting in the future.

**Conservation.** The Committee has been involved with multiple projects. Highlights are as follows:

*Fluid Collections Assessments* -- The fluids assessment manual has been broken into seven basic parts, each part describing an aspect of the fluids assessment project. An introduction to the manual has been written, and a narrative unifying the seven parts is in draft form. A final draft introduction and narrative overview will be forthcoming in the next quarter.

*Conservation-related Citations* -- Citations of recent articles from any of the natural science disciplines that have a bearing on conservation and may be relevant to other disciplines are being coordinated by the Conservation Committee to appear in the Newsletter.

*Conservation Poster* -- University Products has generously agreed to sponsor a poster for SPNHC that is intended to raise awareness of conservation issues. The poster will be distributed free of charge to all SPNHC members, and will also be used as a promotional tool for SPNHC.

**Documentation.** The Committee has been involved with multiple projects. Highlights are as follows:

*Glossary Project* -- Over 250 pages of definitions have been collected from 28 sources. A proposal to publish the glossary has been sent to and approved by the Publications Committee. The proposal was also presented to the SPNHC Council during the Conference.

*Computer Standards and Policies Project* -- Work continues with the Web Page appearance and content in preparation for final approval.

**Education and Training.** The Committee is preparing the 1996 workshop, entitled *Valuation and Insurance of Natural History Collections*. Speakers have been approached in the fields of insurance, appraisal, tax auditing, loss assessment, and university insurance, as well as museum staff involved in various aspects of valuation. Help is needed to pull this workshop together. Interested individuals should contact Beth Merritt (413-345-8508). Publication of the 1995 workshop, *Managing the Modern Herbarium*, is underway. Seventy-five per cent of the papers and all of the abstracts are in the review process.

**Publications.** The Committee is searching for a replacement for this important position. The Committee has been involved with multiple projects. Highlights are as follows.

*SPNHC on the Internet* -- SPNHC and the Association of Systematic Collections have continued sponsoring a

joint, unmoderated discussion list, NHCOLL-L. Anyone interested may subscribe to the list (at no cost) by sending the message, SUBSCRIBE NHCOLL-L <Your full name > to: listproc@ucmp1.berkeley.edu

*Special Publications* -- The production of the SPNHC special publication, *Storage of Natural History Collections: A Preventive Conservation Approach*, has been printed and will be mailed to purchasers this month. The Committee produced a set of guidelines for the development and production of SPNHC Special Publications. These guidelines are available to anyone interested in bringing forward a proposal for a Special Publication. The Council also has received approved two Committee proposals for special publications, tentatively entitled *Managing the Modern Herbarium* and *Terms for Collection Management and Preservation*.

*Leaflet Project* -- The Leaflets project also was accepted by Council. The first issue is distributed with this Newsletter. Comments and inquiries concerning the Leaflets should be directed to the Committee. The Committee is interested in working with authors to produce future numbers.

The Committee extends its appreciation to Paula Sumpter for her work as the SPNHC Newsletter Editor.

## SECOND WORLD CONGRESS ON THE PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION OF NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS

The Second World Congress on the Preservation and Conservation of Natural History Collections is scheduled for August 20th - 24th. It is sponsored by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council and the Museums and Galleries Commission, and hosted by the Geological Conservation Unit, the Sedgwick Museum, and the Department of Earth Sciences, University of Cambridge. The theme of the Congress is: *Natural History Collections - A Resource for the Future.* Patrons for this Congress include Sir David Attenborough, Lord Dainton, Sir Crispin Tickell, and Duchess of Hamilton.

The Congress is focusing on the practical development of the initiatives discussed at Madrid and covered in the resolutions from that meeting. These have provided an excellent focus for developing the Second Congress which will be covering such topics as:

- The use and development of collections in industry, research and education.
- Accessibility of collections using Information technology, databases and international data exchange.
- Current techniques in the care and management of collections.
- Current condition of collections in the developed and developing countries.
- The media image of natural history collections.

- Economic and fund-raising aspects.
- Strategies for the future including the practical development of the World Council on Collections resources (WCCR). This body acts as an umbrella group with the aim of promoting worldwide: a) international coordination between groups and institutions; b) standards in collections management; c.) communication between workers in this field; d) the public understanding of the importance and value of these collections.
- Finally and most importantly, the development of natural history collections in developing countries as a socio-economic resource.

Lecturing at the congress will be such eminent speakers as Dr. Jack Horner, Sir Bob May and Dr. Neil Chalmers, plus representatives from the World Bank, the World Conservation Monitoring Centre, UNESCO, the WWFN, and major national museums around the World.

Importantly this is a Congress aimed at getting everybody involved in natural history museums and collections together to talk. The meeting is structured so that the participants will play an important part in developments at the meeting. Space has been allocated to talk and discuss current and future initiatives and problems, with the aim of bringing the discussions together at the end of the meeting into a series of practical developments that can be acted on straight away. Besides this, participants will be able to attend workshops which will be discussing a range of topics including Databasing and Data Exchange, Collections Care issues, and Financing. These sessions will be lead by experts from institutions including the British Museum, The Jason Project, CHIN and The Museums and Galleries Commission.

This will be a practical Congress, providing solutions for the continued development and support of Natural Science Collections around the world. For those who are concerned about the future funding and support of Natural History Museums and the development of natural history collections, it is important to attend this meeting.

For more information please contact The Administrator - World Congress; Department of Earth Sciences; University of Cambridge; Downing Street; Cambridge CB2 3EQ (phone +44 1223 33 34 21; fax +44 1223 33 34 50).

#### **WCCR REMAINS AN INTEREST OF SPNHC AND AN INTERNATIONAL OBJECTIVE**

The World Council on Collections Resources (WCCR) was founded through resolutions developed at the First World Congress on the Preservation and Conservation of Natural History Collections. The WCCR is intended to serve many purposes as an international umbrella organization for addressing important issues of natural

history collections worldwide. The goals of the WCCR are consistent with those of SPNHC. Both SPNHC and the Association of Systematics Collections (ASC) have worked closely to keep the concept of the WCCR viable. This collaboration started with the First World Congress, with subsequent meetings in Washington, D.C., and the joint meeting at St. Louis IN 1994. The WCCR will be an important topic at the Second World Congress on the Preservation and Conservation of Natural History Collections. According to the ASC Newsletter (1995, Vol. 23, No. 5), the WCCR has been approached for assistance in developing natural history museums in other countries. Currently, the ASC "is acting as liaison in North America for the WCCR," and can be contacted for further information (Association of Systematics Collections; 730 11th Street, NW, Second Floor; Washington, DC 20001-4521 (phone 202-347-2850).

#### **CONGRATULATIONS!**

Danny Shpeley of the University of Alberta, is the winner of the Membership Directory Update Raffle. The raffle was organized to encourage members to update their addresses and area(s) of specialty so that the new 1995/96 directory is as accurate as possible. Danny's name was drawn from the 329 eligible entries (post marked on or before December 31, 1995). A copy of *Storage of Natural History Collections: A Preventive Conservation Approach* is on its way to Danny. Our thanks to all the SPNHC members who responded. The new Members Directory will be in the mail shortly. If you have not responded, there may still be time to up-date your address, telephone, fax, and e-mail numbers. Send any changes to Julia Golden, Treasurer (121 Trowbridge Hall; University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa 52242; fax 319-335-1821; e-mail j-golden@uiowa.edu).

#### **RESISTALL TO GO INTO PRODUCTION**

The word is official: linen Resistall, 36# and 28# will once again be produced by Byron Weston and sold in the various formats by University Products. Production of the 36# will take place between now and June; #28 stock is still available from the last run. University Products', John Dunphy is able to take your orders at this time (800-628-1912 or fax 413-532-9281) but be aware that it may "be awhile" before the order is filled.

I will be asking Richard Carr of Byron Weston Technical Paper Division to provide anyone interested with a MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheet) upon request; otherwise, we should have this included with each order. His e-mail address is: rjcarr@aol.com

Some of you asked why Byron Weston changed their minds. Good question. The story is as follows: the existing BW mill did not meet US-OSHA specifications for

environmental interactions. Practical techniques, tools, and materials are emphasized. Course topics include:

- Identifying common storage problems in collections and exhibitions.
- Monitoring for pests and key environmental variables.
- Constructing anoxic enclosures.
- Constructing specialized microenvironments for sensitive materials.
- Monitoring within enclosures and microenvironments.
- Sources of information and supplies for creating specialized storage.

Course instructors include John Burke (Conservator, The Oakland Museum of California) and Sally Shelton (Director, Collections Care and Conservation, San Diego Natural History Museum). Mr. Burke heads the conservation laboratory at the Oakland Museum of California. He has studied and published on the uses and effects of anoxic environments for several years. He is a Professional Associate of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works, and is Professor of Conservation at John F. Kennedy University. Ms. Shelton specializes in preventive conservation techniques for natural history collections. She is a council member of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections.

The course will be hosted at the San Diego Natural History Museum and will utilize the museum resources of Balboa Park. Information on lodging, meals and transportation will be sent with the course readings to registrants.

The course will cost \$300 for registrations received before March 1; \$325 after that. Course fees do not include transportation, lodging or meals.

Further information on International Academic Projects courses can be found at the Web site <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/~tcf313>, or may be obtained from James Black (IAP, 31-34 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PY, UK; phone 171-387-9651; fax 171-388-0283).

Further information and registration materials for the microenvironments course may be obtained by contacting Sally Shelton (San Diego Natural History Museum; P. O. Box 1390; San Diego, California 92112 USA; phone 619-232-3821; fax 619-232-0248; e-mail [libsdnhm@class.org](mailto:libsdnhm@class.org)).

### TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE IDENTIFICATION OF MUSEUM MATERIALS

The International Academic Projects, London, will be offering the course entitled *Identification of Museum Materials: What is it made of?* It will be taught by Robert Child, Head of Conservation, National Museum of Wales, and Valentine Walsh, Paintings Conservator in private practice. This course will provide information and practice on identifying a range of materials using simple visual and physical methods. The course will be taught at two venues, Austin, Texas, April 16-19, and Tampa,

Florida, April 23-26, 1996. For more information on the Texas course contact the Course Coordinator (Materials Conservation Laboratory, Texas Memorial Museum, University of Texas at Austin, PRC #122, 10100 Burnet Road; Austin, Texas 78758; phone 512-471-6090; fax 512-471-6092); for the Florida course contact the Course Coordinator, (South Florida Conservation Center, 3400 Spring Street; Pompano Beach, Florida 33062; phone 954-785-7512; fax 954-941-6690).

### TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES IN CONSERVATION OF GEOLOGIC CONSERVATION

*Preventive Conservation of Geologic Materials* (May 13-17, 1996) and *Advanced Conservation of Geologic Materials* (May 20-23, 1996) are presented by the San Diego Natural History Museum in conjunction with Yellowstone National Park and sponsored by International Academic Projects, London. Geological-origin specimens and objects in museums are subject to a wide range of causes of deterioration and damage. Recognizing, monitoring and isolating causes of damage to these collections are the objectives of the preventive conservation course. In the advanced course, participants work with interventive conservation measures to repair and restore geological materials. Course topics include:

- Nature, identification and characteristic degradation of mineral and stone types.
- Monitoring key environmental variables.
- Cleaning, adhesion, and consolidation.
- Special concerns of fossil and fossil-bearing materials.
- Special concerns of stone artifacts.
- Health and safety concerns.
- Weathering, salt migration, and efflorescence.
- Geological elements in art and architecture.
- Concerns of site conservation.
- Product information.

Course instructors include Chris Collins (Conservator, Geological Conservation Unit, Sedgwick Museum, Cambridge University) and Sally Shelton (Collections Care and Conservation, San Diego Natural History Museum). Mr. Collins heads the Geological Conservation Unit and is chair of the 1996 Second World Congress on Natural History Collections. He has taught the only post-graduate diploma course in geological conservation. Ms. Shelton specializes in preventive conservation techniques for natural history collections. She is a Council Member of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections and a graduate of the Cambridge course.

Both courses will be hosted at Yellowstone National Park, courtesy of the National Park Service, U. S. Department of the Interior. Information on lodging, meals and transportation will be sent with the course readings to registrants.

The course will cost \$350 for registrations received before May 1; \$375 after that. There is a combined

environmental interactions. Practical techniques, tools, and materials are emphasized. Course topics include:

- Identifying common storage problems in collections and exhibitions.
- Monitoring for pests and key environmental variables.
- Constructing anoxic enclosures.
- Constructing specialized microenvironments for sensitive materials.
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Both courses will be hosted at Yellowstone National Park, courtesy of the National Park Service, U. S. Department of the Interior. Information on lodging, meals and transportation will be sent with the course readings to registrants.

The course will cost \$350 for registrations received before May 1; \$375 after that. There is a combined

registration fee of \$650 for both courses. The advanced course is open to people who have previously completed the first course or who are registering for both courses together. Course fees do not include transportation, lodging or meals.

Further information on International Academic Projects courses can be found at the Web site <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/~tcf313>, or may be obtained from James Black (IAP, 31-34 Gordon Square; London WC1H 0PY, UK; phone 171-387-9651; fax 171-388-0283).

Further information and registration materials for the geological courses may be obtained by contacting Sally Shelton (San Diego Natural History Museum; P. O. Box 1390; San Diego, California 92112 ; phone 619-232-3821; fax 619-232-0248; e-mail [libsdnhm@class.org](mailto:libsdnhm@class.org)).

### FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT: FEDERAL AND INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC PERMITS WORKSHOP

A workshop dealing with federal and international scientific permits, as they relate to natural history museums and collectors, will be held in San Diego on September 25-27, 1996. The workshop is sponsored by the San Diego Natural History Museum and co-sponsored by the Association of Systematics Collections

Confusion and controversy often surround the process of applying for and maintaining valid collecting permits. In many cases, the process is not well understood, new laws and regulations are not well publicized, or there is confusion about different agencies and responsibilities.

This bilingual (English and Spanish) workshop will address these problems by bringing together scientists, agency representatives, and collectors from several countries to examine the problems and provide clarification. Permit agency representatives will be available at a "permits bazaar" to answer individual questions and to facilitate on-site permit applications. Topics to be addressed include:

- The roles, responsibilities and requirements of permitting agencies: Canada, USA, Mexico, Central and South America.
- International regulations and treaties affecting global scientific collecting.
- Issues related to the Biodiversity Convention, collecting, and national sovereignty laws.
- Issues specific to vertebrate, invertebrate, botanical, microbiological and paleobiological collecting.
- The roles of scientific and avocational collectors.

The official languages of the workshop will be English and Spanish. Simultaneous translation facilities will be provided for speakers of these languages. Participants with other translation needs should contact the workshop coordinator. All proceedings will be printed in the language submitted, with abstracts in the other language. Individual translators will be available as needed.

The registration fee covers the cost of the translation facility, banquet, coffee breaks, and all handouts and published proceedings. Local transportation to the meeting and banquet sites will be provided. The costs of other meals and on-site permit applications are not covered in the fee. Early registration fee is \$300 US.

For more information, or to be placed on the mailing list, please contact Sally Shelton (San Diego Natural History Museum; P. O. Box 1390; San Diego, California 92112 ; phone 619-232-3821; fax 619-232-0248; e-mail [libsdnhm@class.org](mailto:libsdnhm@class.org)).

### MEETINGS OF INTEREST

May 4-8 -- Annual meeting of the American Association of Museums in Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota. For information call 202-289-9113.

May 19-22 -- Annual meeting of the Association of Systematics Collections in Beltsville, Maryland. For information call 202-347-2850 or fax 202-347-2850.

May 24-26 -- Annual Conference of the International Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works - Canadian Group in Montreal, Canada. For information call 514-398-7100 or fax 514-398-5045.

June 10-16 -- Annual Meeting of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works in Norfolk, Virginia. For information call 202-452-9545 or fax 202-452-9328.

June 12-15 -- Annual Meeting of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. For information call 215-299-1137 or fax 215-299-1170.

August 20-24 -- Second World Congress on the Preservation and Conservation of Natural History Collections in Cambridge, UK. For information call 1223-33-34-21 or fax 1223-33-34-50.

August 25-30 -- 16th Congress of the International Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works in Copenhagen, Denmark. For information call 0171-839-5975 or fax 0171-976-1564.

September 1-6 -- 11th Triennial Meeting of the ICOM Committee for Conservation in Edinburgh, Scotland. For information call 0131-556-8417 or fax 0131-557-5977.

### RECENT PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

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Colton, C. E. 1995. A conservator's guide to respiratory protection. *AIC News* 20(2):1-6.

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Green, O. R. 1995. Pitfalls, problems and procedures in micropalaeontological preparation and conservation. *Geological Curator*, 6(4):157-166.

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Moore, S. 1995. Restoring old mammal mounts. *Conservation News*, 57:22-25.

Moore, S. 1995. Sealing tape for jars containing spirit preserved specimens. *Conservation News*, 56:25.

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Thickett, D., Cruickshank, P., and C. Ward. 1995. The conservation of amber. *Studies in Conservation*, 40:217-226.

Williams, S. L., S. R. Beyer, and S. Khan. 1995. Effect of "freezing" treatments on the hydrothermal stability of collagen. *Journal of the American Institute for Conservation*, 34(2):107-112.

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