



SPNHC Newsletter

Society for the Preservation
of Natural History Collections

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Best wishes to all members of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections as we begin 1997 in our institutions and collections. You are no doubt continuing to want to learn more about natural history collection issues and what your colleagues in other institutions are doing.

As you may recall, the SPNHC mission is to improve preservation, conservation, and management of natural history collections to ensure their continuing value to society. The care of these assets is fundamental and continued research on collection care and management techniques is vital, both from the point of view of safeguarding the collection and for doing our jobs more effectively.

Many people set personal and professional goals each year around this time. If your goals include improving your professional development, I hope that you can dedicate 15 minutes per day to work on researching ways to improve collection care and management and then share what you have learned with other SPNHC members through the newsletter, *Collection Forum*, or at the next annual meeting in Madison, Wisconsin.

An exciting program has been developed for the Annual Meeting. Presentations will focus on many aspects of improving care and management of natural history collections and there will be lots of time for paper and poster presentations. The workshop will focus on "Quality Management — Quality Collections Care." It has received federal support from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Be sure to register early because space is limited.

After attending the Annual Meeting you will be able to take home practical information for managing your collections. Please consider inviting another collection manager, curator, or volunteer from your institution to attend with you so you will have someone back home to work with who can share the improvement of your collection.

You will be pleased to know that the Council and the SPNHC Committees continue to work hard on the 1996-97 goals. We have formalized a plan for this year, and progress is being made on important issues. In particular, we have received offers to host future annual meetings in

Edmonton, Alberta (1998) and Denver, Colorado (1999). We also are working on the potential relationship between SPNHC and the World Council of Collection Resources as a result of recent recommendations originating from the Second World Congress on the Preservation and Conservation of Natural History Collections.

From a financial point of view, SPNHC is strong. We have sold over 700 copies of *Storage of Natural History Collections*, (volumes 1 and 2), and the net revenue is helping the Society to serve its members and to continue efforts of developing professional resources. The number of individual and subscribing SPNHC members continues to grow. However, like any other group, we are always looking for new members who are interested in sharing information about natural history collections.

Elections are underway for two Members-at-Large to be selected from four candidates. On behalf of SPNHC I extend appreciation to each candidate for offering to support SPNHC by dedicating their time to the cause.

One of our challenges is attracting manuscripts for *Collection Forum*. These have to come from you — we can not manufacture them from other sources. So, if you have been working on new and creative techniques for managing or caring for collections, please share this information with your colleagues by publishing in *Collection Forum*.

Overall, SPNHC is doing well. Your continued support can make us great. I look forward to working with the membership and Council in the support of natural history collections.

Grant Hughes (President)

SPNHC97 - NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS ON CAMPUS

The 12th Annual Meeting of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections is being hosted by The Natural History Museums Council at the University of Wisconsin-Madison on 8-11 July 1997. The meeting will be held in the Wisconsin Memorial Union Theater and the Main Lounge. Everyone is encouraged to submit papers and posters dealing with aspects of natural history collections. This year, the general umbrella topic is

"Collections on Campus." The meeting will be followed by a workshop entitled, "Quality Management: Quality Collections Care" on July 12-13, 1997.

The general schedule for the meeting is as follows:
Tuesday, 8 July 1997. Registration; Committee Meetings.

Wednesday, 9 July 1997. Registration; Collections Open House; First Council Meeting (Memorial Union Theater); All day field trips; Icebreaker (Tripp Hall/ Memorial Union).

Thursday, 10 July 1997. Registration; Welcome (Keith R. Sanders, Senior Vice President for Administration for UW-System, Dr. Daniel Young, Chair, Natural History Museums Council); keynote speakers (Hugh Genoways, Director Emeritus, Nebraska State Museum and Hugh Iltis, Director, Wisconsin State Herbarium); Presentations (Memorial Union Theater); Banquet (Great Hall/Memorial Union).

Friday, 11 July 1997. Presentations; Annual General Meeting; Presentations; Final Meeting of the Council.

Saturday - Sunday, 12-13 July 1997. Workshop entitled, "Quality Management—Quality Collections Care" (Memorial Union).

The call for papers and registration materials were mailed to all members in late December. The workshop flyer went out January 8, 1997. To receive these mailings, please contact the Chair of the Local Committee.

All day field trips are planned to Taliesin, the Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio in Spring Green, and the Milwaukee Public Museum for their special exhibit "Butterflies Alive." The centerpiece of the latter will be a 1,000 square foot walk-through Butterfly Garden, featuring hundreds of live North American butterflies.

Individuals may tour Madison and visit the State Capitol, War Museum, State Historical Society Museum, State Historical Society Paper Laboratory, Madison Children's Museum, Henry Vilas Zoo, and Elvehjem Museum of Art.

For further information contact Steven Krauth, Chairman of the Local Committee (346 Russell Laboratories; 1630 Linden Drive; University of Wisconsin-Madison; Madison, WI. 53706; (608)262-0056; FAX(608)262-3322; krauth@entomology.wisc.edu).

MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP STILL HAS OPENINGS

"Quality Management—Quality Collections Care" is being presented on 12-13 July, in Madison, Wisconsin as part of the 12th Annual Meeting of SPNHC.

This workshop will benefit collections care staff by improving one's ability to 1) implement improvements at an institution, 2) manage projects that require the cooperation of people who may be resistant to change, or who have goals that conflict with yours, and 3) engage the support of participants above you or parallel to you in the chain of command. This workshop will benefit directors and administrators by improving 1) the integration of

collections care concerns into museum planning, 2) the implementation of decisions with a maximum of staff cooperation, 3) the understanding of the motivations and interests of your staff, and 4) the implementation of the strengths of your staff more effectively.

Workshop planning and presentation are by Mary Case and Will Phillips of the management consulting firm Qm2 (Quality Management for Quality Museums) in consultation with the Education and Training Committee of SPNHC.

Space is still available, but it is filling fast. When spaces are filled, a waiting list will be created. Registrants will be numbered in the order received and their checks will be returned with the understanding that if space becomes available, they will be notified and expected to return payment within a week, using the same check, if convenient.

Register now by sending \$175 for the two-day session (meals not included) with a cover letter to Julia Golden, SPNHC Treasurer (University of Iowa, Department of Geology, Iowa City, Iowa 52242-1379).

It is anticipated that there will be a limited number of corporate-sponsored scholarships available because SPNHC is soliciting corporate sponsorships for scholarships that would underwrite the cost of registration. Names of scholarship applicants are being taken by Beth Merritt. At the time scholarship funding is confirmed, scholarships will be awarded non-competitively from the names submitted by March 30, 1997.

This project is supported in part by an award from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, a Federal Agency that strengthens museums to benefit the public. Funding for three scholarships has been provided by Huntington T. Block Insurance Agency, Inc., a Rollins Hudig Hall Company. Appreciation is extended to H. T. Block for their continued support of the educational projects of SPNHC. These scholarships will cover the registration costs for scholarship recipients.

For information on the workshop and scholarship submittals, please contact Beth Merritt (Cincinnati Museum Center, Geier Research Center, 1720 Gilbert Avenue, Cincinnati Ohio 45202; phone 513-345-8508; e-mail 74437.462@compuserve.com).

ASC 1997 ANNUAL MEETING WITH ASMD AND AAM IN ATLANTA

The 1997 Association of Systematics Collections Annual Meeting will be held in Atlanta, Georgia, on April 24-26, 1997. The meeting will precede the 1997 meeting of the American Association of Museums (AAM) and will be held jointly for the first time with the Association of Science Museums Directors (ASMD). For those who are interested, the meeting also follows Restoration97 on April 20-22.

The annual meeting starts on April 24 with the ASC Board meeting. During the morning of April 25, there will be an opportunity to discuss ASC's strategic plan that is intended to facilitate voting on the plan at ASC's Business Meeting during the afternoon. An intermediate session will bring telecommunication and database experts from outside the systematics collections community to provide a better context in which to discuss database needs and progress.

The primary theme of the meeting, "The Collections-based Mission of Natural History Collections," will have sessions scheduled during the morning of April 26. This will focus on the core mission of institutions with natural history collections, which is to maintain the collections for use in research and the education of a broad public constituency. The connection between the collections, research derived from the collections, and public programming will be explored by several nationally known speakers, and will be the subject of a workshop session co-sponsored by the AAM Education Committee during the afternoon of April 26. The workshop will serve as the initial activity of ASC's new Informal Education Committee. Anyone interested in joining the committee may attend. It is hoped that the committee will build a strong liaison with AAM's Education Committee and other groups such as the Association of Science and Technology Centers (ASTC).

The meeting will be particularly appealing to new directors of natural history and science museums who do not have a background in collections and research, but who must develop support for the collections from external sources. It also will appeal to scientific curators, collections managers, and educators who wish to work together to provide the public with a better view of the purpose, challenges, and exciting new knowledge that is being derived from collections. Finally those who represent non-collecting science institutions may wish to participate to gain perspective on the differences between their institutions and collecting institutions.

For more information contact ASC (1725 K Street, N.W.; Suite 601; Washington, D. C. 20006-1401; phone, 202-835-9050; fax, 202-835-7334; e-mail, asc@ascoll.org; web site, www.ascol.org).

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

The SPNHC Council recently voted to have the Resources Committee serve as a subcommittee of the Conservation Committee. The decision was based on operational needs for this adjustment, followed with acceptance of Barbara Moore (Chair, Conservation Committee) and Elpeth Snow (new chair of the Resources Subcommittee). Iris Hardy (Past Chair of the Resources Committee) is now Chair of the Education and Training Committee. SPNHC extends its appreciation to Iris Hardy for her work on the Resources Committee.

ELECTION COMMITTEE

Voting for the two Members-at-Large to take office in 1997 has been completed, and the successful candidates will be announced at the Annual General Meeting, at which time nominations will be opened for two more Members-at-Large, the Secretary, and the President-Elect. Appreciation is extended to all members who made nominations for this year's election. Please be thinking about nominations for next year. Our officers make an important contribution to the success of SPNHC, and the coming year is an especially important slate. Please consider carefully who could fill these offices, and help continue the quality work of the Council. Any questions or comments regarding the Election Committee should be directed to Judith Price, Chairperson (phone, 613-566-4263; fax, 613 364-4027).

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

The second issue of volume 12 of *Collection Forum* is in its final stages of production and reportedly will be mailed in the late February or March. The first issue of volume 13 is well on its way to completion. Your patience with the Society's activities to produce a quality journal is appreciated. Members are encouraged to produce and submit manuscripts to *Collection Forum*.

COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONALISM

As the Committee on Professionalism investigates the topic of "professionalism" for the SPNHC membership, its initial efforts have focused on clarification of the objectives of professionalism and developing an understanding of how related organizations have addressed the issue. The following contributions are part of the results of the initiatives of the Committee.

Recognizing Professions and Professionalism

The interpretation of a 'professional' varies among individuals. Some would say that it is simply being paid for a career-oriented job. Others would say it is contributing in some way to the profession beyond the responsibilities of the work place. SPNHC has been investigating how individuals working in natural history collections might promote collection management as a recognized profession. In pursuing this investigation, the SPNHC Committee on Professionalism has reviewed the approaches of organizations with similar aspirations, specifically those involving conservators, registrars, and archivists/librarians.

Most established professions have survived 'growing pains' like those currently experienced by groups with collection affiliations. The literature documents the

development of highly respected fields, such as law, medicine, engineering, and many others. Each initiative has helped to refine the concepts behind professions and professionalism. An effort is made here to briefly summarize the evolving traits that have characterized these professions.

The most fundamental traits are extrinsic in nature because they involve four stages of recognition by society.

- 1) A profession requires an existing body of knowledge associated with unique skills.
- 2) The knowledge and skills must have a perceived importance, purpose, and value to society.
- 3) There must be an awareness of an organized group of qualified individuals that can deliver the knowledge and skills needed by society.
- 4) The group of individuals must consistently provide quality service that is deserving of public trust.

For a group of individuals to fulfill these fundamental social expectations important intrinsic characteristics must be developed. These are discussed in relation to each of the stages of social recognition.

Knowledge and skills. - Individuals develop affiliations with a profession through the knowledge and skills gained as a result of personal experience, advanced education, or both. Professionals will reach a level of self-actualization that calls for a life-time commitment and social accountability. Equally important, professionals are committed to a career of continuing education that involves the profession.

Perceived importance, purpose, and value. - The difficulty of developing this trait varies with professions. Professions that effectively interact with the public on a regular basis will easily overcome this challenge. Professions that lack public exposure often must rely on support through administrative systems that oversee the welfare of society. In these situations, the profession must be perceived by the administrative system to be important, purposeful, and valuable. Professional organizations such as SPNHC can play an important role in building positive perceptions with both the public and administrative systems.

Organized group of qualified individuals. - Individuals identifying with a profession must formally organize to define the parameters of the profession and to oversee its progress. This can only be achieved through the contributions of an organization's professional members. Typical professional contributions include adding to the body of knowledge through projects and research, educating others through written and verbal communications, providing organizational services, and providing leadership within the profession.

Development of public trust. - The presence of a formal organization sets the stage for other important aspects of professionalism to materialize; it also addresses the social recognition stage involving public trust. Professional organizations will assume some level of self-regulation of its profession. In doing so, it will develop autonomy from non-professional influences. Those organizations with the greatest public trust will have written guidelines for

professional behavior, typically in the form of a code of ethics and standards of practice. Equally important, they will have a system for recognizing excellence in the profession. This is typically achieved by honoring individuals and by recognizing levels of competence through a system of accreditation or certification. The quality of standards and level of self-regulation adopted by an organization will directly relate to the caliber of public trust developed.

This summary addresses the important traits used to recognize professions and professionalism. Although the Committee on Professionalism is investigating the status of professionalism in SPNHC, the deciding factor will ultimately be the membership, starting with each member. The process of professionalism is a formidable challenge and it encompasses much more than "being paid for a career-oriented job." It requires that individuals be professional by being a part of the special knowledge and skills, commitment, social accountability, organizational membership, contribution to the profession, and self-regulation of the profession. The SPNHC membership will determine how the challenges of professionalism will be pursued and whether the initiatives will follow those of related organizations.

Stephen Williams
(Committee on Professionalism)

Initiatives of Professionalism Among Registrars

United States. - A group of individuals interested in improving standards and professionalism among registrars began in 1976 to develop operating rules for a professional affiliation of individuals with similar interests. The first operating rules for the Registrars Committee of the AAM were drafted by the Registrars National Steering Committee in 1977. These have been amended several times since, most recently in 1994 (RC-AAM Annual Report, Fall 1995, Vol. 3, No. 2).

The Registrar's Committee is a standing professional committee of the American Association of Museums, and is active in promoting the needs of registrars through AAM and its annual meeting. The six regional museum associations in the United States (all of which operate independently of AAM) have Registrar Committees that operate within the respective regions. There is also an active Collection Managers Committee within the Texas Association of Museums.

Members of the Registrars Committee of the American Association of Museums are represented by a board that is comprised of the Chair of each regional Registrars Committee. Efforts to improve standards and the level of professionalism are handled through committee structures and projects at both the national and regional levels. Formal communication among members occurs through newsletters and annual meetings. Published directories of members facilitate informal communications and networking.

Methods for promoting professionalism among registrars have included: development of a written code of ethics and a code of practice for couriering museum objects; projects to survey and publish standard practices for a variety of procedures; promoting and providing opportunities for training; recognition of individuals and institutions through awards; and collaborative efforts with other professional societies. The "Code of Ethics for Registrars" was approved and published in 1984, and the "Code of Practice for Couriering Museum Objects" in 1987; both are reprinted in "Registrars on Record" (M. Case, ed., 1988, American Association of Museums, Washington, D.C., 257 pp.).

Projects to survey and develop standard practices for procedures have included the Standard Facility Report, deaccessioning, emergency planning, loans, object labeling, packing and shipping, and condition reporting. These efforts have progressed to different stages, but all have involved some degree of surveying current practices and an intent to develop guidelines. Some have resulted in published documents (e.g., Standard Facility Report); some have focused on providing examples of forms, procedures, and plans in use. Publications that have resulted from national and regional committee projects include the revision of "Museum Registration Methods" (in progress), "Steal This Handbook! A Template for Creating a Museum's Emergency Preparedness Plan" (Southeastern Registrar's Association), "Soft Packing: Methods and Methodology for the Packing and Transport of Art and Artifacts", "Technical Drawing Handbook of Packing and Crating Methods", and "Basic Condition Reporting: A Handbook" (revision in progress; Southeastern Registrars Association).

Efforts to provide and promote training focus on internships at individual institutions, sessions and regional and national annual meetings, and occasional workshops that are offered independently of annual meetings. The "Intern Preparation Manual" was first published in 1991 by the RC-AAM. This manual outlines procedures for both the institution and individual to insure an internship that will be mutually beneficial. Annual meeting sessions and workshops have been consistently offered, with topics ranging from perennial "favorites" such as deaccessioning to issues of repatriation, packing methods, copyrights, and management skills.

The RC-AAM has developed resources and corporate support for a number of awards. These include stipends for museum collections management professionals to attend the annual AAM meeting (Crozier Fine Arts Travel Stipends; IAT International Travel Stipend); and awards 'to encourage the professional development of entry-level or new museum collections management professionals' through provision of membership fees and free publications.

Collaborative efforts with other groups have strengthened the RC-AAM's efforts. For examples, workshops have been offered in association with other

Standing Professional Committees (e.g., Curator's Committee), and American Institute for Conservation members.

United Kingdom. - A recent article in the RC-AAM Newsletter (Spring 1996, vol. 4, no. 1:8-9) highlights the development of the U.K. Registrars' Group (UKRG). The group began meeting in 1978, but formally adopted a first Constitution in 1991. It is one of a number of 'specialist groups' that operate independently of the Museums Association. With approximately 150 members, it works with groups such as the Museums Association and the Museums Documentation Association to promote professionalism in the area of collections management. Primary efforts have focused on annual meeting sessions and communication through the newsletter.

Australia. - The Australian Registrars Committee was formed in 1990 to foster communication among colleagues with similar concerns. Since that time, a constitution has been written, categories of membership clarified, and objectives for the committee identified. The committee has actively pursued its objectives through seminars, its newsletter, and participation in Museums Australia.

*Paisley Cato and Llyn Sharp
(Committee on Professionalism)*

UPDATE ON THE WORLD COUNCIL FOR COLLECTION RESOURCES

At the Second World Congress on the Preservation and Conservation of Natural History Collections there was a reiteration of the need for the World Council on Collection Resources (WCCR). Since that time a special task force has been developed with the appointment of Co-chairs, Dr. Des Griffen (Australian Museum, Sydney) and Dr. Mohamed Isahkia (National Museums of Kenya, Nairobi).

The basic purpose of the task force is to "explore the options for the establishment of a new group, working internationally, building links and promoting museum collections and the contribution they can make. A major concern for such an organization as the WCCR is to "provide information critical to the preservation of the world's biodiversity . . ." Part of the purpose of the task force is to determine the uniqueness and commitment for such an organization. It is critical that no other organization exists that is capable of achieving the same goals outlined for the WCCR.

The task force, composed of a small, multi-national, working-group. It consists of individuals that are willing to do the background work for the organizations foundation.

The SPNHC Council has been considering details of possible collaborative relationships between SPNHC and the WCCR. The Council is carefully balancing the on-going needs of the membership and the long-term interests of the Society.

SPHNC HOMEPAGE

Be sure to check the SPNHC homepage on the worldwide web. It currently contains information on officers, committees, the annual meeting, SPNHC publications, past newsletters, and links to related sites of interest to SPNHC members. SPNHC extends its appreciation to Terry Vidal for the work on maintaining the homepage. Readers are invited to visit the SPNHC homepage at <http://www.uni.edu/vidal/spnhc> for further information. Also, if individuals have new ideas for the SPNHC homepage, they should contact Terry Vidal (terence.vidal@uni.edu).

NEW HOMEPAGE ADDRESS FOR THE ICOM-CC

The International Council of Museums Conservation Committee (ICOM-CC) has a new homepage address: http://www.natmus.min.dk/cous/icom_cc/icom_cc.hwl) The homepage will carry information on the CC working groups, including the natural history working group. The CC also will offer a discussion group, but this will be available only to ICOM members. To subscribe, send a message to: listservs@home.ease.lsoft.com with the message SUBSCRIBE ICOM-CC [first name] [last name]. The 'dist list' will be refereed by Mikkel Scharff of Denmark.

ORPHANED COLLECTIONS WEBSITE

The Interactive Collections Availability List (ICAL) is now operating at www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/ICAL/. This Web Site was funded by the National Science Foundation so that orphaned (no longer wanted by their owners) and underutilized (owners open special collections for study by interested experts and students) fossil collections can be provided with appropriate homes or made available for study. ICAL is designed to post information about such collections and to automatically notify subscribers to the service about them. Anyone can view these records or post new ones. The aim is to get those in possession of collections together with those who will properly curate, store, or study them.

Readers are encouraged to look at the site. It contains much more information about this subject and how to use the site. If you have or know of collections that are or will become orphaned soon, please inform the current owners about ICAL. Such collections may now be in museums, universities, departments, industry, or private hands.

This website is open for business. For further information please contact Jere Lipps, Director, Museum of Paleontology (University of California; Berkeley, California 94720 USA; phone, 510-642-9006; fax, 510-642-1822; internet, jlipps@ucmp1.berkeley.edu; WWW, <http://ucmp1.berkeley.edu/jlipps/jlipps.html>).

NEW SOURCE FOR SPECIMEN TAGS

The following notice is from the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists Subcommittee on Supplies and Resources. The University of Michigan, Museum of Zoology (UMMZ) Division of Reptiles & Amphibians, has purchased 100,000 prenumbered field tags from Allen Bailey Tag and Label Company.

Greg Schneider (UMMZ Herpetology) reports that they are satisfied with the quality and recommends these tags to any museum collection. These sequentially numbered tags are 1-1/4 X 5/16 inches, hole punched with a 1/8 inch diameter hole. They are printed on Forbon (10 point thickness) with permanent ink (See NHCOLL list archives for description of Forbon paper). Tags can be printed on both sides, come in rolls or fan-folded strips with perforations. The company will pre-tie these tags with specified thread. The tags and the printing hold up well in ethanol, formalin, glycerin and water.

Greg Schneider has investigated the tag problem since the usual source failed to produce the quality product they had offered in the past. The Allen Bailey Tag has proved satisfactory not only for the UMMZ, but also for Louisiana State University, California Academy of Sciences, and the Illinois Natural History Survey.

The company will send samples if requested. For further information contact sales representative Ms. Lilian Larrabee (Allen Bailey Tag and Label Co.; One Main Street; Whitinsville MA 01588 USA; phone, 1-800-724-1069; fax, 1-800-836-4074).

*Alexandra M. Snyder
(Museum of Southwestern Biology)*

CORRECTING ALCOHOL CONCENTRATIONS

The Royal British Columbia Museum (RBCM) has 24 vat-type containers in the fish, herpetology and invertebrate collections. All the vats contain 45% or 60% alcohol, except the fixing vat that contains 10% formalin. These containers range in size from small stainless steel boxes (50cm x 40cm x 40cm) to large plastic or fiberglass-lined wooden vats (1m x 2m x 60cm).

Obtaining effective, impervious gaskets for the variety of sealing surfaces between vat bodies and lids has been a problem at the RBCM. Some are better than others. Most appear to allow at least a low rate of fluid evaporation. By nature the alcohol is more volatile than the water in the preservative solution. Over time the preservative becomes less concentrated and the vats have to be "topped off" periodically. Standards at the RBCM require that vats containing type specimens be checked quarterly, and the rest biannually.

The following is a formula for determining the amount of alcohol required to raise a diluted concentration in a vat:

$$z(x+y) = ax + by$$

where z = desired concentration (usually a percentage

value); x = measured height of fluid in the vat (inches or cm); a = measured concentration of fluid (percent); b = concentration of fluid being added (percent); y = amount of fluid to add (inches or cm). To solve for y use the following equation:

$$y = (z - a)x / (b - z)$$

For example, where $z = 45$, $x = 25$, $b = 100$, and $a = 36$, then

$$y = (45 - 36)25 / (100 - 45) = 4.09\text{cm}$$

There are a few needs that must be addressed in correcting concentrations as described. 1) The sides of the container or vat must be straight so that the height of fluid relates to the actual volume. 2) Specimens within the vat or container do not have to be removed. 3) Measuring the concentration should be done carefully from several positions within the vat after mixing the fluid, to avoid the possibility of measuring pockets of higher or lower concentration.

The depth of most vat-type containers found in natural history fluid preserved collections would be measured at the smallest dimension. Given two containers of equal volume with differing surface areas on the top, the one with the larger surface area will exhibit a greater rate of fluid evaporation. Any collection with fluid-preserved specimens in vertical-sided containers would find this formula useful as an alternative to replacing fluid preservative completely.

Kelly Sendall and Grant W. Hughes
(*Royal British Columbia Museum*)

NAGPRA CIVIL PENALTIES PUBLISHED

Interim rules have been published relating to one section of regulations implementing the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (NAGPRA). The interim rule became effective on February 12, 1997, and will remain in effect until final regulations are adopted through general notice and comment rulemaking.

The rule outlines procedures for assessing civil penalties upon museums that fail to comply with the applicable provisions of the Act. Penalties are assessed if a museum has not completed summaries, has not completed inventories, refuses to repatriate, repatriates before publishing a notice in the Federal Register, or sells or otherwise transfers human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony in violation of the Act.

The penalty amount will be .25% of a museum's annual budget, or \$5000, whichever is less, and such additional sum as the Secretary may determine is appropriate after taking circumstances into account. An additional penalty of \$100 per day after the date the final administrative decision takes effect if a museum continues to violate the Act.

For further information contact Dr. Francis McManamon (Departmental Consulting Archeologist; Archeology and Ethnography Program; National Park Service; P.O. Box 37127; Washington, D.C. 20013-7127; phone, 202-343-4101; fax 202-523-1547).

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

The North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences is expanding and is hoping to fill the following positions in 1997: Collection Manager (Birds), Collection Manager (Fish), and Chief Librarian. If interested in any of these positions please send only a letter at this time, expressing your interest in a particular position. When the position is officially opened a job description and application will be mailed to you. Letters should be sent to Dr. Stephen Busack, Director, Research and Collections (North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences; 102 N. Salisbury Street; Raleigh, North Carolina 27603).

MEETINGS OF INTEREST

March 12-14 — Workshop on Leather Conservation by C. Calnan in Austin, Texas. For more information contact the Materials Conservation Laboratory (PRC #122, 10100 Burnet Road, Austin, Texas 78758; phone 512-471-6090; fax, 512-471-6092; e-mail, jsjohnson@mail.utexas.edu).

March 24-27 — Conservation of Geological Sites by C. Collins and S. Shelton at the Utah Field House of Natural History, Vernal, Utah. For more information 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).

April 2-4 — The Interface Between Science and Conservation at the British Museum, London. For more information contact Department of Conservation (British Museum; Great Russell St., London WC1B 3DG, UK; phone, 44-181-690-3678; fax, 44-181-314-1940).

April 6-10 — Fourth International Conference of the Institute of Paper Conservation, London, United Kingdom. For more information call 44 (0) 1794 511331/2 or fax (0) 1794 511455.

April 6-11 — Symposium on Morphology, Anatomy, and Systematics in Leuven, Belgium. For more information call 32-16-321545 or fax 32-16-321979.

April 9-11 — Industrial Collections: Care and Conservation in Cardiff, Wales. For more information write UKIC, 6 Whitehouse Mews, Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7QD, UK.

April 16-17 — Collections Access and Care—New Directions for the Next Millennium by the Biology Curators Group and the Natural Sciences Conservation Group, at the National Museum and Gallery of Wales, Cardiff. For more information contact Julian Carter (NMGW, Cathays Park; Cardiff CF1 3NP, Wales; phone, 01222 397951; fax, 01222 373219).

April 20-22 — Restoration97 in Atlanta, Georgia. For more information contact Steven Schuyler (RAI/EGI Exhibitions, 129 Park Street, North Reading, Massachusetts 01864; phone, 508-664-6455; fax, 508-664-5822).

April 21-25 — Conservation: A Developing Science. Assessment and Prospects in Paris, France. For more information call 33 1 44 08 69 90 or fax 33 1 47 07 62 95.

April 23-25 — LACONA II in Liverpool, United Kingdom. For more call 44(0) 151 478 4904 or fax 44(0) 151 478 4990.

April 24-26 — Association of Systematics Collections annual meeting in Atlanta, Georgia. Read ASC 1997 ANNUAL MEETING WITH ASMD AND ASM IN ATLANTA for further details.

April 26-30 — American Association of Museums annual meetings in Atlanta, Georgia. For more information call 202-289-1818.

May 19-22 — Anoxic Enclosures and Microenvironments in Museum Storage and Exhibits by J. Burke, T. Strang, and S. Shelton, at the Intermountain Cultural Resource Center, Nation Park Service, Santa Fe, New Mexico. For more information 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).

May 27-30 — Preventive Conservation of Geological Materials by C. Collins and S. Shelton at the San Diego Natural History Museum, San Diego. Form more information 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).

May 30-June 3 — CAC/ACCR annual conference and workshop in Ottawa, Canada. For more information call 613-995-4471 or fax 613-995-0179.

June 1-5 — Advanced Conservation of Geological Materials by C. Collins and S. Shelton at the San Diego Natural History Museum, San Diego. Form more information 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).

June 9-15 — AIC Annual Meeting in Washington, District of Columbia. For more information call 202-452-9545 or fax 202-452-9328.

June 25-28 — Emergency Response Workshop by B. O. Roberts at the Campbell Center. For more information contact the Campbell Center (203 East Seminary; P. O. Box 66; Mount Carroll, Illinois 61053; phone, 815-244-1173; fax, 815-244-1619).

June 26-29 — Second International Conference on Preservation of Botanical Collections in Krakow, Poland. For more information contact W. Szafer Institute of Botany Polish Academy of Sciences, (Lubicz 46, 31-512, Krakow, Poland; fax, 48-12-21-9790; e-mail, nhworobi@cyf-kr.edu.pl).

June 26-29 — Society of Bookbinders biennial conference in Newcastle Upon Tyne, United Kingdom. For more information call 44 191 2227662.

June 26 - July 2 — Annual meeting of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, Larval Fish (or Herp) Preservation and Curation by A. Snyder and D. Snyder at the University of Washington, Seattle, Washington. For more information contact Darrel Snyder (Colorado State University, 33J Wagar Building, Fort Collins, Colorado 80523; phone, 970-491-5295; fax, 970-491-5091).

July 7-August 8 — Conservation of Natural Science Materials (five week course covering preventive conservation of natural history collections, material science, and conservation and preparation methodology at the University of Cambridge. For more information contact Chris Collins (Geological Conservation Unit; Department of Earth Sciences, University of Cambridge; Madingley Rise, Madingley Road; Cambridge CB3 0EZ; phone, 44-1223-362522; fax 44-123-366860).

July 8-12 — Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections annual meeting. Read SPNHC97 - NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS ON CAMPUS for further details.

July 14-18 — Materials, Examination, and Examination by C. Hawks, D. Rasch, and J. Klein at the Campbell Center. For more information contact the Campbell Center (203 East Seminary; P. O. Box 66; Mount Carroll, Illinois 61053; phone, 815-244-1173; fax, 815-244-1619).

July 31 - August 2 — Marketing and Collections Care by T. Real at the Campbell Center. For more information contact the Campbell Center (203 East Seminary; P. O. Box 66; Mount Carroll, Illinois 61053; phone, 815-244-1173; fax, 815-244-1619).

August 7-9 — Care of Photographic Collections by G.

Albright at the Campbell Center. For more information contact the Campbell Center (203 East Seminary; P. O. Box 66; Mount Carroll, Illinois 61053; phone, 815-244-1173; fax, 815-244-1619).

August 8-9 — Committee for Mapping the Flora of Europe at the University of Helsinki, Finland. For more information see web page at <http://www.helsinki.fi/kmus/circular.html> or fax 358-9-191 8656.

August 13-15 — Advances in Plant Molecular Systematics meeting in Glasgow, United Kingdom. For more information call 44-0-141-330-5971 or see web page at <http://taxonomy.zoology.gla.ac.uk/plantmeeting.html>.

August 20-23 — Photographic Documentation of Collections by J. Crawford at the Campbell Center. For more information contact the Campbell Center (203 East Seminary; P. O. Box 66; Mount Carroll, Illinois 61053; phone, 815-244-1173; fax, 815-244-1619).

August 20-23 — Packing and Shipping Workshop by B. Powell and J. Malini at the Campbell Center. For more information contact the Campbell Center (203 East Seminary; P. O. Box 66; Mount Carroll, Illinois 61053; phone, 815-244-1173; fax, 815-244-1619).

September 17-20 — Environmental Monitoring and Control by W. Jessup at the Campbell Center. For more information contact the Campbell Center (203 East Seminary; P. O. Box 66; Mount Carroll, Illinois 61053; phone, 815-244-1173; fax, 815-244-1619).

September 17-20 — Care of Archival Collections by M. Lee at the Campbell Center. For more information contact the Campbell Center (203 East Seminary; P. O. Box 66; Mount Carroll, Illinois 61053; phone, 815-244-1173; fax, 815-244-1619).

September 17-20 — Introduction to the Care of Books by B. P. Eldridge at the Campbell Center. For more information contact the Campbell Center (203 East Seminary; P. O. Box 66; Mount Carroll, Illinois 61053; phone, 815-244-1173; fax, 815-244-1619).

September 22-26 — Management and Planning by B. Roberts and M. Lee at the Campbell Center. For more information contact the Campbell Center (203 East Seminary; P. O. Box 66; Mount Carroll, Illinois 61053; phone, 815-244-1173; fax, 815-244-1619).

September 23-26 — Anoxic Enclosures and Microenvironments in Museum Storage and Exhibits by J. Burke, T. Strang, and S. Shelton at Yale University Museums, New Haven, Connecticut. For more information 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).

October 14-18 — Spot Testing for Materials Characterization by N. Odegaard and S. Carroll at the Campbell Center. For more information contact the Campbell Center (203 East Seminary; P. O. Box 66; Mount Carroll, Illinois 61053; phone, 815-244-1173; fax, 815-244-1619).

October 14-18 — Mycology for Conservators by M. L. Florian at the Campbell Center. For more information contact the Campbell Center (203 East Seminary; P. O. Box 66; Mount Carroll, Illinois 61053; phone, 815-244-1173; fax, 815-244-1619).

October 14-18 — Microscopic Identification of Plant Fibers of Ethnobotanical by S. Palenik at the Campbell Center. For more information contact the Campbell Center (203 East Seminary; P. O. Box 66; Mount Carroll, Illinois 61053; phone, 815-244-1173; fax, 815-244-1619).

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

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- Edmonson, J. 1996. Cultivated vouchers in herbaria. *The Biology Curator*, 7:8-10.
- Eggle, U., and B. E. Leuenberger. 1996. A quick and easy method of drying plant specimens, including succulents, for the herbarium. *Taxon*, 45(2):259-261.
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- Palmer, L. 1996. Assessing preservation fluids in a wet collection: How important is container style? *Natural History Conservation (Newsletter of the International Council of Museums - Conservation Committee)*, No. 10:10-12.
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*Received from Barbara Moore
(Conservation Committee)*

NEW OR REINSTATED MEMBERS OR SUBSCRIBERS FOR 1996

Aleva, J. Folkert - Herbarium Vadense, Dept. of Plant Taxonomy
Andison, Cynthia
Andrei, Mary Anne
Baalman, Nancy - Fick Museum
Banegas, Attn: Ing. Jose Angel, Museo Entomologico
Bardsley, Tania - Museum Of Victoria, Ichthyology
Bashford, Richard - Forestry Tasmania
Braun, Janet K - Oklahoma Museum of Natural History
Brewer, Kasey - Royal Saskatchewan Museum
Brinkman, Paul - Arizona State University/ Geography Dept.
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Bruder, Pamela M. - San Diego Natural History Museum
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Dochartaigh, Bill
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Flint, Mary E.T. - Idaho Museum of Natural History/ Idaho State University
Fogel, Robert - University of Michigan Herbarium
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Fox, Marilyn - American Museum of Natural History, Vertebrate Paleontology
Frank, Marc S. - Florida Museum of Natural History
Gannon, William L - Museum of Southwestern Biology/ Mammals
Garton, Ray - West Virginia Geological Society /Geology & Natural History Museum
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Kronthal, Lisa - American Museum of Natural History,

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Wendt, Tom - University of Texas
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Yen, Su-Fen - National Palace Museum (Conservation Division)
Young, C/O Kellogg, Jean - Luther College

*Received from Julia Golden
(Treasurer)*

EDITORIAL NOTE

In addition to the SPNHC members who contributed to the information provided in this newsletter, the editor expresses sincere appreciation to David Lintz and Sheryl Faulkner (Strecker Museum Complex) for their assistance in preparing this issue.

*Stephen L. Williams
(SPNHC Newsletter Editor)*

SPNHC 1996-1997

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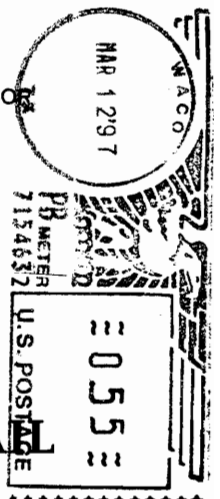
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