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SPNHC NEWSLETTER

**Society for the Preservation
of Natural History Collections**

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Managing a Collections Move – Thoughts from Two Veterans

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One of the “facts of life” of the contemporary university museum collection is moving. Whether it be to new, state-of-the-art facilities (e.g., Yale’s Environmental Science Center) or to renovated “temporary” space (e.g., the University of Michigan Herbarium), many museums have faced (or may face) this situation for one or more of their collections. Whatever the circumstance, the move must be planned and executed carefully.

After we described our “moving” experiences at the 2002 SPNHC meeting in Montreal, (Rabeler 2002, White 2002), we found many common threads in what we were telling the audience. We summarize our thoughts here as a guide to others.

The Players and their Projects

The University of Michigan Herbarium

Rabeler’s experience involved supervising the move of the University of Michigan Herbarium to renovated temporary space in a portion of the UM Food Stores warehouse in 2002. The planning process spanned one year before construction began, seventeen months before the move began. This project involved initial designs for occupying a new building, switching to a design/build renovation of existing space, and executing the move. The facilities include 1.7 million specimens housed in over 1200 metal cabinets, a 30,000 volume library, ten research offices, and a laboratory. The renovation of 26,000 square feet was substantially completed in six months and the move was executed in five weeks; the move was completed on time, under budget, with only mini-

mal problems. The last truck left on the day that we had told UM Construction Management that we would be out of our old (to be demolished) space.

Environmental Science Center, Yale University

White played a lead role in orchestrating the move of the Peabody Museum collections into a new facility, the Class of 1954 Environmental Science Center (ESC). This was a much larger project, the planning process taking over six years and involving the evacuation of six collections and two research libraries from Bingham Laboratory (which was razed in 1999) to renovated temporary quarters in Kline Geology laboratory and the Peabody Museum, the design and construction of the ESC, and the move and reorganization of the collections.

The evacuation of Bingham Lab took about 6 months while demolition of Bingham and construction of the ESC took about two and one-half years to complete. The move of about 8.5 million specimens in 17 different collections into about 60,000 square feet of the new building began in February 2002 and has continued for the past 18 months. While the Paleobotany staff moved their collections in about 6 weeks it took almost 7 months to move the ornithology collections (due to pest concerns), with two collections (Invertebrate Zoology and Invertebrate Paleontology) projecting moves and major reorganizations for the next few years.

What did we learn about moving a collection?

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Figures 1 and 2 are slightly modified from Rabeler's 2002 presentation and summarize *many* of the principles, which a move manager should contemplate *very* carefully. The molecular theme arose since the UM Herbarium move was predicated by the construction of a new Life Sciences complex on the site which the herbarium formerly occupied. We will expand on the parts by letter, interjecting additional thoughts as appropriate.

P (Fig. 1) Making certain that people responsible for the collection are involved from "time 0" in the **planning** of all aspects of a move will go a long way towards it being successful. **Preparations** will take many forms, and it is important that someone look out for the interests of the collection and not just the people. **Persistence** is a useful skill to develop since there are many situations where it will pay off in order to get a situation resolved to your satisfaction. It is also essential that you be **proactive** in making sure that the people in charge at almost any level are aware of the "needs" of the collection. As Jean DeMouthe put it: "don't let them do it without you" (DeMouthe 2002). Many **people** will be involved in a move, some of whom will probably not be familiar with the collection or its significance. Dealing with these people effectively (and with respect) will make the move go more smoothly. Remember, you can shrink-wrap an object but not a person, no matter how badly you might want to do so. **Politics** can't be avoided. As we have both discovered, it is essential to understand them and try to deal with them as best you can. Rabeler found that he often was "tiptoeing through the factions" as he attempted to plan the move; you may find yourself in a similar situation.

C **Communications** are absolutely essential. As move manager, you will have access to a great deal of information that others may need (or want) to know. Keeping your staff informed of decisions or situations which affect them will do a lot to keep them "on your side." Keep all channels of communication open with all contractors, facilities personnel, etc., so that you know what they are doing and you can deal with their needs and questions as well. Good communication will lead to and foster **cooperation**; you will need a lot of assistance from others for the task to be completed smoothly.

Figure 1: Molecular Guide to Moving PCR

- Plan
- Prepare
- Persistence
- Proactive
- People
- Politics
- Communicate
- Cooperate
- Responsibility
- Ready: for anything
- React: to anything
- Review: anything and everything often!

R You will most likely be asked to assume many new **responsibilities** during the move. It is important that you both understand what they may involve and assume that additional effort beyond that will almost certainly occur. Anyone preparing to move a natural history collection will be dealing with an untold number of variables – you must be **ready** for, and able to **react** to, just about anything that arises. If flexibility is not one of your strong points at the beginning, it may be by the end. **Reviewing** anything and everything often is also critical. Whether it is the building plans, move estimates, or personnel assignments, you must make sure you are on top of the details both as originally intended and as they have evolved, either intentionally or by accident.

D (Fig. 2) You will be involved in both carrying out **decisions** of others and making many yourself; the latter may need to be done extremely quickly. Make sure that you contribute input to any that you can – a collections professional must be involved in looking out for the collection. You will be very well served to **document** anything and everything related to the move. Both of us accumulated thick binders of all sorts of information – anything, even fax receipts, to prove that an action had occurred, decision made, meeting held, etc. If questions arise, you want to be able to respond to them quickly and accurately. As we have noted already, a move manager must face lots of uncertainty; you must become accustomed to that – **deal with it!**

N As manager, you are setting an example for others to (hopefully!) follow. You must *not* be **negative** toward the move or the process. In the case of a forced move (e.g., the UM Herbarium), you may be one of the few folks who are facing the reality of the situation; you will be moved whether you want to or not. Many of the decisions you will be faced with will be **negotiated**. The success of this project will depend on your ability to balance the needs of contractors and their schedules with the safety of your collections.

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Figure 2: Molecular Guide to Moving DNA

- Decisions
- Document: anything and everything
- DWI - Deal with it!
- Negativity - NOT!! You may be the only one fighting this
- Negotiate
- Ask
- Assume Nothing!
- Attitude: the project is either a Challenge or an Annoyance

Presidential Report

ROBERT HUXLEY,

*Department of Botany, The Natural History Museum,
Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, United Kingdom*

This year marks the 250th anniversary of the death of Sir Hans Sloane, physician, naturalist and collector. In his 93 years Sloane amassed a huge collection of varied objects from coins to natural history specimens - his herbarium ran to some 265 volumes. During his lifetime he saw the rise of a rational approach to the natural world and the collecting of living and geological specimens as a serious pursuit. He saw and experienced the difficulties and dangers of preserving specimens for posterity and the dangers of transporting them across the world. He also lived through a time of economic instability when the subject was restricted to the rich amateur and in his later years saw the revival of interest stimulated by the pragmatism of Linnaeus. I start with this preamble as it is interesting to note the parallels with the modern world and the issues that face SPNHC and its membership. Our discipline and the collections we manage are threatened by economic climate, transport of collections is at risk from uncompromising bureaucracy but at the same time new and exciting challenges arise such as the information revolution and the opportunity to preserve molecular samples and frozen tissues as a resource for recent and future research.

Many of these topics were aired at this year's annual meeting in Lubbock, Texas, a highly successful gathering attracting people from across our discipline at a variety of levels. The talks were excellent, organisation perfect, and I was particularly heartened by the feedback from the broad spectrum of people who had not been to a SPNHC meeting before. We were considered a friendly group and the level of papers and discussion relevant and of a high calibre.

The main theme of the meeting, "Balancing Tradition and Technology," was highly topical and relevant, covering a broad spectrum from technical issues to the minefield of national and international copyright laws. We have Richard Monk to thank for this excellent event.

The breadth and depth of discussion both in the main meetings and council reflected the theme and a number of important issues were addressed. Following on from these I have set up a number of sessional committees to examine in depth the role of SPNHC in addressing these challenges and opportunities.

Firstly, the year has seen yet more closures of collections and attrition of staff and the orphaned collections theme recurred throughout the meeting. In response, I have set up a sessional committee to examine the role that SPNHC might play in response to these threats. Whilst there must be some degree of advocacy from SPNHC in promoting the importance and relevance of collections I see this as more the territory of organisations such as NSCA and its "Dinosaurs to DNA" campaign, for instance. Possible roles for SPNHC may lie in assisting governing bodies and staff to deal with these threats and, if disposal is inevitable, providing advice on what to do to ensure the long term survival of collections. Paula Work will be chairing this group and will report their findings in a future newsletter.

A second issue of concern was the increasing difficulty in transporting liquid preserved materials around the world as regulations are more strictly enforced and

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The **Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections** was formed in 1985 and is recognized as a non-profit organization [501(c)(3)] in the United States. SPNHC members receive *Collection Forum*, a biannual journal of reviewed technical information, and two issues of the *SPNHC Newsletter* each year. The Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC) is a multidisciplinary organization composed of individuals who are interested in development and preservation of natural history collections. Natural history collections include specimens and supporting documentation, such as audio-visual materials, labels, library materials, field data, and similar archives. The Society actively encourages the participation of individuals involved with all aspects of natural history collections.

The **SPNHC Newsletter** (ISSN 1071-2887) is published twice a year, March and September, by the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections, c/o Division of Ichthyology, Natural History Museum & Biodiversity Research Center, University of Kansas, Dyche Hall, 1345 Jayhawk Boulevard, Lawrence, KS 66045-7561, USA.

Changes of address should be directed to Lisa Palmer, Treasurer, PO Box 797, Washington, DC 20044-0797; palmer.lisa@nmnh.si.edu.

Submissions are welcome. Please forward announcements, articles and notes to the Newsletter Editors by mail or email.

Deadline for the next Newsletter is February 1, 2004.

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flexibility has given way to blanket decree. A sessional committee chaired by Sue McLaren will investigate the legal and ethical issues and establish dialogues with the appropriate authorities.

To turn eyes inward for a moment I have set up three sessional committees to look at various aspects of how SPNHC functions. The first will develop a business plan linked closely to our 5 year goals (Chair: Rob Huxley), a second will review how we publicize ourselves and our products and how we interact with other organizations (Chair: Rachel Arenstein). A third, closely linked to the last, will find ways to make the most of our web site as a high profile means of communicating both to our members and the broader community.

There have been a number of changes in committee posts and council membership. We welcome two new members at large, Liz Dietrich and Jean-Marc Gagnon and thank those who have come to the ends of their terms, Gretchen Anderson and Paula Work, for all their hard work.

As part of our policy of staggering co-chairs Barbara Hamman replaces Lisa Kronthal as co-chair of the Conservation Committee with Jude Southward. Again, thanks to Lisa and welcome to Barbara.

This is also an opportunity to thank Chris Norris for his sterling work as Newsletter Editor for the past two years and to welcome Andy Bentley and Lori Schlenker who have gallantly taken over the reins.

We have two big city locations to look forward to for our next two meetings. In 2004 we will be hosted by the American Museum of Natural History in New York; the highly topical subject of emergency preparedness, response, and salvage will be the theme. Plans are well underway for a joint meeting in London, UK in 2005 together with two UK groups - the Natural Sciences Collections Association and the Geology Curators Group and possibly other international organizations. The theme is likely to be along the lines of "Setting and Monitoring Standards in Collections Management and Conservation."

Whilst there are looming dark clouds there are also exciting new developments that SPNHC is becoming closely involved in. The Lubbock meeting and workshop demonstrated some of the advances in collections-related IT and also forged important links with new collections.

We were pleased to welcome Robert Hanner, President of the International Society for Biological and Environmental Repositories (ISBER) to the meeting to investigate how SPNHC might relate to these new types of collection. In Sir Hans Sloane's day, new glass technology and preservatives were allowing natural history specimens to be reliably preserved in liquid for the first time, a revolutionary step. We are at a similar point and issues such as linking tissue collections and DNA sequences to dry and liquid preserved vouchers are of great im-

portance. In my view it is essential that SPNHC be aware of and, to some degree, involved in the way these collections are developed in the future, how they are managed, documented and made accessible.

Finally, I would like to end with a quote from Sir Hans Sloane's will. "Having from my youth a strong inclination to the study of plants and all other productions of nature, and having through the course of many years with great labour and expence [sic], gathered together whatever could be procured either in our own or foreign countries that was rare and curious ... I do will and desire that for the promoting of these noble ends, the glory of God, and the good of man, my collection in all its branches may be, if possible, kept and preserved together whole and intire... that the same may be, from time to time, visited and seen by all people desirous of seeing and viewing the same...that the same may be rendered as useful as possible, as well towards satisfying the desire of the curious, as for the improvement, knowledge and information of all persons..."

This remains as true now as then and SPNHC will carry this banner forward. I look forward to a challenging, yet exciting year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Treasurer's Report

Over the past year, the Finance Committee worked on several substantial issues. The largest dedication of effort was to revamp the Financial and Membership databases. Last summer, with contractual support, several off-the-shelf software packages were researched and tested. The Treasurer and the Contractor determined that QuickBooks Pro offered the most efficient and accurate means for non-accountants to track the society's finances. QuickBooks Pro is also compatible with our CPA's software. In early September, the Contractor designed QuickBooks Pro for easy data entry and then proceeded to transfer the former financial system into the new system. Full implementation of the system was realized by the start of renewal season in October. To work in conjunction with the financial software, the membership database was transferred from FileMaker Pro to Excel.

With the death of SPNHC life and founding member, Carolyn Rose, the Finance Committee sought opinions and discussed options to develop a SPNHC memorial in honor of Carolyn. Bearing in mind that SPNHC does not want to interfere with those memorial funds established by AIC and the Smithsonian, the Finance Committee has narrowed our choices. We hope to develop our ideas a bit further before bringing a recommendation to SPNHC Council.

The District of Columbia recently changed regulations and began to impose high fees on non-profits located within the

city's jurisdiction. The Finance Committee worked with our Registered Agent to investigate the "new" fee structure. In an unexpected twist, DC decided to eliminate the new regulations. At this time, all the facts are not totally known, but the Finance Committee will keep abreast of the situation, and follow-up any new developments.

The Finance Committee assisted the American Museum of Natural History in developing their budget for the 2004 Annual Meeting. Budget information from the 1999 Annual Meeting in Washington, DC was used.

Several of our library subscriptions were affected by the Divine/RoweCom/Faxon bankruptcy proceedings. Most of our affected subscribers appear to have been transferred to the subscription agent, EBSCO. However, five of our patrons formerly with Divine/RoweCom/Faxon have not yet renewed their subscriptions with SPNHC.

With input from SPNHC Webmaster, Jon Greggs, SPNHC changed our web domain address provider from Network Solutions to Domain Registration Services. In addition to www.spnhc.org, SPNHC has reserved the domains, www.spnhc.net and www.spnhc.info.

The "Public Health and the Museum Community" theme of the 2002 Annual Meeting continues. Cathy Hawks and her crew have proposed that a fifth SPNHC publication address this topic. Council officially accepted the proposed publication, "Fundamentals of Safety and Health for Museum Professionals" and asked Cathy to pursue funding for the book. Cathy et al. requested budget input from the Treasurer, and submitted a well-laid proposal to the Bay Foundation. As stated in the Treasurer's report, the Bay Foundation was not able to fund the grant. The Finance Committee continues to support this worthy project and will make every effort to assist the editors in locating funds to print, publish and distribute the book.

The Finance Committee expects to pursue the following topics over the next year:

- Evaluate SPNHC investments
- Finalize SPNHC financial policies
- Develop a SPNHC business plan
- Determine the future of the Treasurer's office.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Palmer and Rob Waller, Co-Chairs

Elections Committee Report

Three members of the Elections Committee met on June 15, 2003 in Lubbock. We discussed committee membership, a concern since three members resigned this year; one concern was subsequently resolved after the meeting. The 2003 election was reviewed. Members are very interested in reducing the number of invalid ballots (that number did decline in 2003) and suggested adding text to the ballot that would remind folks to include their name and return address on the envelope. We also wanted to remind the membership

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Membership

Membership applications for individuals (US\$25), Libraries (US\$30) or Associates/Corporate (US\$50) may be submitted to:

Lisa F. Palmer, SPNHC Treasurer
P.O. Box 797
Washington, DC 20044-0797
USA

Be sure to include the following information:

Name, Discipline Specialty, Institution
Address (Street, City, State/Province, Country, Zip/Postal Code)
Voice telephone, Fax Telephone, E-mail address

Payment may be made by cheque, money order, Visa or Mastercard.

Membership application/renewal form by portable document (Adobe Acrobat Reader required): <http://www.spnhc.org/renew.pdf>

Membership application/renewal form by Word file: <http://www.spnhc.org/renewal.doc>

Life Membership

The SPNHC Life Membership is a special membership category for those interested in the long-term financial stability of our organization. Life membership monies are invested towards the future goals of the Society. SPNHC life memberships are available for \$625. The fee is 25 times the Individual Membership rate, currently \$25. Life Memberships may be paid in one of three ways:

- (1) one-time payment of \$625;
- (2) two-year installments of \$350/1st year and \$275/2nd year;
- (3) three-year installments of \$300/1st year, \$200/2nd year and \$125/3rd year.

Please contact the Treasurer should you require further information about life memberships.

Lisa F. Palmer, Treasurer
National Museum of Natural History

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that as they consider people for nomination (and election) to Council they remember that the Council should be representative of the breadth and expertise of the various collection disciplines that SPNHC includes; a note to that effect will be added to the election instruction letter. Each year several nominations are received for people who are no longer active members. Since these folks have made an impact on the society, these names will now be forwarded to the Membership Committee for further contact.

I would like to thank all of the members of the Elections Committee for their service this past year. The call for nominations for the 2004 election appears elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard K. Rabeler, Elections Chair

Conservation Committee Report

General notes from the 2003 Conservation Committee meeting

Eleven SPNHC members attended the 2003 Conservation Committee meeting in Lubbock, Texas. The minutes for the 2002 Conservation Committee Meeting in Montreal, Canada were approved. Topics presented at the meeting (and discussed below) include transfer of committee leadership, subcommittee reports, and 2003-2004 Conservation Committee objectives for developing professional expertise and standards in collections care, training, and outreach.

Transfer of Conservation Committee Leadership

With many thanks and well wishes, we would like to acknowledge Lisa Kronthal of the American Museum of Natural History for her three years of leadership and excellent service as the co-chair of the Conservation Committee. Lisa began as Co-chair at the 2000 annual meeting in Halifax, Nova Scotia and ended this year during the 2003 annual meeting in Lubbock, Texas. Thankfully for us, Lisa is still within our sights and she has signed on for many activities with the Conservation subcommittees. She is an integral part of the planning for the 2004 annual meeting in New York. Barbara Hamann of the Carnegie Museum will carry forward Lisa's good work as co-chair. Jude Southward of the Denver Museum of Nature & Science continues her term as co-chair.

Resources Subcommittee

Both Cindy Ramotnik and Janet Waddington report that the Resources Display Units have not traveled recently. As 2003-2004 progresses, Janet and Cindy will advertise the availability of the units in Collection Forum and on NHCOLL-L. The supplies and suppliers' lists for both the Canadian and U.S. ver-

sions of the Resources Display Units are available on the Conservation link of the SPNHC website. Robin Panza has graciously agreed to review the website links and suppliers' information.

Citations Subcommittee

Citations will be moving forward as Paula Work settles at her new position in Maine. During 2003-2004, Paula will compile a list of reviewers and journals reviewed. Conservation Committee members will review the list to determine if there are any journals that need to be included.

Adhesives Subcommittee

Gretchen Anderson is the Chair of the Adhesives Subcommittee. While on sabbatical in London, Gretchen met with Chris Collins to discuss a future adhesives workshop. Discussion topics included the structure of the workshop, fundraising, and possible schedule. Gretchen reports that Chris had excellent suggestions based on previous workshop experiences, and that he is willing to join the team (currently comprising Gretchen Anderson, Lisa Kronthal, Barbara Hamann, and Jude Southward).

2003-2004 Conservation Committee Work Plan

The Conservation Committee Work Plan was completed in July and submitted to SPNHC President Robert Huxley. The work plan contains a list of objectives following the SPNHC Five Year Goals and Objectives and due dates for actions to be completed during the 2003-2004 time period. Please contact Jude Southward at jsouthward@dmns.org for a copy of the work plan. The Conservation Committee will address the goals of training and providing professional expertise by moving forward with planning an adhesives workshop, continuing to provide for the Resources Display Units, and exploring the possibility of implementing a SPNHC 'Angels' program. The American Institute for the Conservation of Historic & Artistic Works (AIC) sponsors a similar program, whereby members provide collection preservation service to a selected institution prior to the SPNHC annual meeting. Outreach will be addressed by updating the Conservation Committee website links and by providing a liaison to the annual meeting of AIC.

SPNHC attendees at the 2003 Conservation Committee meeting in Lubbock, Texas:

Lisa Kronthal	Fernando Marte
Jude Southward	Janet Waddington
Barbara Hamann	Athena La Tocha
Paula Work	Chris Norris
Cindy Ramotnik	Joanna Morton
Gretchen Anderson	

Respectfully submitted,
Jude Southward, Conservation Committee Chair

Membership Committee Report

During the Membership Committee meeting in Lubbock this past June, discussions inevitably turned to statistics assembled by Treasurer Lisa Palmer, specifically those that show a slow but steady decline in total SPNHC membership. This predicament was viewed in the context of the goals and objectives set in the SPNHC five-year plan:

Overall membership program goal -

Expand SPNHC membership in the US, Canada and at the international level.

Membership program objectives -

- 1) Devise and finalize membership solicitation form letters
- 2) Solicit memberships from non-member contributors to *Collection Forum*
- 3) Allow grace period of one year for non-renewals
- 4) Distribute semi-annual e-mail solicitation to NHCOLL-L subscribers
- 5) Develop target list of other individuals and institutions for membership solicitation

Clearly, one solution to the membership decline appeared to be more time and energy devoted to maintenance of the membership program. Further, other action items were suggested through the discussions of the committee -

- 6) Contact AAM Museum Assessment Program to determine if information on SPNHC publications/membership can be distributed to Museum Assessment Program (MAP) surveyors and assessment recipients
- 7) Research whether Museum Studies programs and their students at various colleges and universities could be solicited for memberships

Soon after Lubbock, the Treasurer and Membership chair got busy pestering folks for overdue renewals. Renewal notice form letters were revised and e-mailed/mailed to 128 (yikes!) individuals with over-due renewals. Time will tell if this "dunning" of the renewal "slackers" is fruitful!

On the fellow-professionals front, the Membership chair sent memos to AAM-MAP staff members requesting feedback on how SPNHC info might be included in MAP materials, or indeed how SPNHC publications might be included in the AAM Bookstore catalog. Since then, Beth Merritt (SPNHC member and Director for AAM's Museum Advancement & Excellence program) has responded saying that she too has made this suggestion to the AAM Bookstore. Perhaps if other SPNHC members who maintain AAM memberships would also send

in similar requests, it might bring about some action on the part of AAM.

Contacts, contacts, contacts! Committee member Paula Work has volunteered to lead inquiries with Museum Studies programs. No doubt other SPNHC members have strong leads on how to set up distribution of SPNHC membership literature to students in these programs. Anyone with leads in this area is welcome to contact Paula or the Membership chair. Similarly, advice is needed on how to approach societies/organizations with SPNHC affinities (Society of Vertebrate Paleontology, AIC, etc.) and learn how to solicit their members as well.

Regarding the "grace period of one year for non-renewals," how is this practice working? If you are reading this newsletter, are you aware of whether or not you received it through an expired membership? Feedback on this tactic would be appreciated. It may be that until newsletters "stop coming", miscreants will not see the need to renew!

Of course, feedback will be welcomed on these and other issues regarding membership. Please send your questions, comments and suggestions to the Chair, or to any of our committee members: Paula Work, Lisa Palmer, Elena Benamy, Cindy Ramotnik, Jane MacKnight or Kelly Goulette.

Respectfully submitted,
James M. Bryant, Chair

Documentation Committee Report

The Documentation Committee organized the 2003 workshop: "Use of Digital Technology in Museums." The workshop was spread out over two days and included nine speakers from Canada, the United States, and England. Topics included discussions of database design, project management, and on-line database and legal issues of Internet resources, among others. Presenters will be offering their workshop resources in *Collection Forum* and via the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) web site on Digitization of Natural History Collections.

Limiting NHCOLL-L posts to subscribers only has greatly curtailed the type of first-time-on-target SPAM that has been aimed at the list in the past. The next step toward improving service to NHCOLL-L subscribers is to transfer administration of the list to Greg Watkins-Colwell at the Yale Peabody Museum. We are continuing to pursue the goal of making the list archives available. Stand by for notification of this change.

Chris Chandler (Putnam Museum, Davenport, IA) continues to collate meetings, workshops, short course and important deadlines for the Calendar section of the SPNHC Newslet-

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ters. Please contact Chris at chandler@putnam.org with any important announcements.

Museum Wise: Workplace Words Defined, a project of the Documentation Committee, was a big hit at the annual meeting with several copies sold. If you have not picked up a copy yet, visit the SPNHC web site (or the last page of this newsletter) for ordering information.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Goulette, Co-Chair
Denver Museum of Nature & Science

Tim White, Co-Chair
Yale Peabody Museum

Education & Training Committee Report

During 2002 and 2003, the Education and Training Committee concentrated its efforts on SPNHC Goals and Objectives related to developing workshops, providing training opportunities, and improving membership services. At the 17th Annual Meeting in Montreal, the committee discussed ideas and development of future workshops including "Emergency Response," "Setting and Maintaining Collections Care Standards," and "Adhesives and Consolidants."

At the request of the SPNHC 2004 Host Committee, the Education and Training Committee assisted with a membership survey in order to plan for the 19th Annual Meeting in New York City. The Education and Training Committee provided comments to the Host Committee as the survey was being developed, and the survey appeared as part of the March 2003 SPNHC Newsletter. Iris Hardy and Lori Benson collected the surveys and results were tallied by Lori Benson.

The "Use of Digital Technology in Museums" workshop was held at the 18th Annual Meeting in Lubbock, Texas, and was organized by members of the Host and Documentation Committees. At the Lubbock meeting, the committee discussed upcoming workshops as well as plans for a new web page. A workshop on "Emergency Response" is planned for SPNHC 2004, and is under development by Barbara Moore and the 2004 Host Committee. A future workshop on "Adhesives and Consolidants" is under development by the Conservation Committee.

Action plans to advance SPNHC Goals and Objectives were recently drafted. In the coming year, the Education and Training Committee will focus on (1) improving membership development and services; (2) improving professional expertise in

managing and caring for collections by communicating the importance of participation in professional development activities, providing training opportunities, developing workshops, and providing for the active exchange of information; and (3) ideas for increasing collaboration with other organizations.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Abraczinskas and Lori Benson

Publications Committee Report

We were sorry to receive the resignation of Chris Norris as Newsletter Editor after four excellent issues. Thank you, Chris for your good work. We are equally delighted to welcome Andy Bentley and Lori Schlenker in this role.

Collection Forum 18(1/2) was printed and mailed in early July. It turned out to be a very international volume, with authors from the UK, Colombia, Japan, and the Netherlands, as well as the USA and Canada. This reflects the broadening reach of SPNHC. Unfortunately, this is the volume for 2002, so we are a year behind again. The chief delay in production of the journal is a lack of manuscripts. Authors of papers presented at Lubbock are encouraged to submit them for publication. There were a number of excellent presentations that would be of benefit to SPNHC members, and indeed to the museum community at large. Please check the website for revised instructions to authors, or contact the Managing Editor for more information.

A sessional committee has been formed to look at ways to increase the effectiveness of the SPNHC website. Expect changes and watch for increased news about committees and other activities. Jon Greggs welcomes your comments.

The latest SPNHC special publication, *MuseumWise: Workplace Words Defined*, was displayed at the University Products booth at Lubbock and many members took advantage of the special sale offered at the meeting. Watch your mail for a special time limited members' discount order form for this and other SPNHC books. SPNHC publications are available from University Products; see the regular order form on the SPNHC website.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Waddington
Chair and Managing Editor, *Collection Forum*

This space could be yours.....

SPNHC Newsletter is looking for articles, news items, etc., for the next edition. Articles of 1000 words or less considered. Contact Andy Bentley (ABentley@ku.edu) for information.

A Bird in the Hand... : Collections-based Biology in Dublin

Julia D. Sigwart, Museum Collections Researcher

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<http://www.ucd.ie/zoology/museum/>

All subfields of biology are fundamentally dependent on natural history collections—physiology, ecology, genetics, agronomy, etc. - all rely fundamentally on specimens. Museums—natural centres for collections-based biology—are traditionally havens for systematics research. Many other groups of biologists seem to rely heavily on secondary information from field guides and parataxonomists. In an era of rapidly increasing need for knowledge about biodiversity, and all things necessary to conserve what diversity is left, it is critical for specimen collections to be actively used by *all* fields that depend on them. By the same token, it seems obvious that collections must also be represented as an integral part of third-level biology curricula. In Dublin, we are developing a novel programme to unite research and teaching in museum studies, focused on improving collections access and use for current and future generations of researchers.

The Collections-based Biology in Dublin (CoB/D) programme is an innovative partnership between the National Museum of Ireland (Natural History; NMINH) and University College Dublin (Department of Zoology; UCD). CoB/D activities promise to provide “value-added” research, involving students, faculty, and technical staff. We aim to harness curatorial efforts by means of student training and improving accessibility of the collections to local researchers at UCD and worldwide. Historically there has been no official relationship between our two institutions, although they are only a few kilometres apart. As of April 2003, this new project was launched by hiring a new member of staff at UCD (the author, formerly of the AMNH) in a joint position with NMINH to act in developing and implementing the project, and primarily to serve as a liaison between university and museum interests.

NMINH collections contain an excellent cache of several million zoology and geology specimens, representing the study of faunal diversity in Ireland continuously from 1792 through the present day. The collections are on a par in size with other significant European collections (e.g., Brussels, Edinburgh). But NMINH has long suffered from shocking under-staffing: there are at present six (6) scientific staff, including an educational assistant, and this is a relatively high number compared with the historical trend. Many parts of the collection have been disused for generations. Access by working scientists has been seriously impaired simply because the present staff do not know what is there, and various collections practices and conservation materials have not kept up to modern standards (the use of unique catalogue numbers for zoology objects was started subsequent to the launch of CoB/D). There is, in short, much work to be done.

The Zoology curriculum of UCD is like many state schools everywhere—a solid curriculum, but previously with no mention of museum science. However, seven department lecturers (of ten with active research programmes) concentrate on projects that are specimen-based. Preserved material collected for use in student (senior undergraduate and post-graduate) projects is typically retained as reference material in labs in UCD and/or placed in storage. In an initial third-year practical in the exhibits of NMINH, roughly two-thirds of the students (mostly locals to Dublin) expressed that they had never been in the museum before, and did not know that it had scientific collections as well as exhibits. Visiting the museum proved to be one of the most popular educational experiences of the year.

This summer (2003) an undergraduate student intern was employed to begin cataloguing the bird skins. For the last 100 years, NMINH has not employed an ornithology curator, but the skin collection contains many important specimens from prominent British and Irish collectors. The birds include many rare specimens, including an incomplete Dodo (*Raphus cucullatus*) skeleton, and an excellently preserved Labrador Duck (*Camptorynchus labradorius*); so far, in the five-plus orders that have been catalogued completely, there appear to be roughly two per cent of specimens in extinct, endangered, or threatened species. The completed catalogues are made available on the project website as they are completed, in a simple (but effective) easy-to-produce form (see <http://www.ucd.ie/zoology/museum/>).

Starting this autumn (2003) NMINH will be providing support for two post-graduate students pursuing museum-based research master's degrees. We hope to soon make this master's degree an object of general public offer, as a programme which should draw great international interest. During autumn 2004 we will have four (of about 15) senior undergraduate theses based on museum material; and in the spring term we will be conducting a course in collections-based research skills for final-year undergraduates, “Biodiversity Collections Research.” This will culminate in students working in small groups on curation projects in the museum, resulting in an assessment report and a detailed catalogue for a small part of the collection, which will be posted on-line and filed in the NMINH archives. Our primary educational goals in this are to teach young proto-researchers (1) that natural history museums exist, worldwide, as scientific resources; (2) what kinds of biological research collections are relevant to (focusing on biodiversity

Sigwart

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and systematics); and (3) how to productively interact with collections as a researcher. Over the next few years, we plan to make this course a part of the core zoology curriculum at the third year, and possibly earlier. In addition, we will develop practicals in the exhibits and scientific collections for other topical courses and in earlier years.

The purpose of CoB/D is not to teach museology, collections management, or conservation skills. Those things are far beyond our means. What we can offer is transferable research skills that our graduates can take to any natural history collection, and the diversity of applications that would bring them into contact with museums. Of course, this involves bringing totally inexperienced undergraduate students into the scientific collections and to a certain extent letting them loose. Are we mad? I hope not. This is an investment made with careful thought about where to target effective training. Without scientific users, collections are not viable. Without the sensible use of specimen collections, both in systematics and other fields, biology will not stay viable for very long. This is a fundamental aspect of biological science in general which has been absent in Dublin. Although it is a challenge to implement, including collections-based biology will bring long-term benefits to our collections, to our students, and to Irish research.

Call for Nominations

The Election Committee of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections announces that nominations for the 2004 election will be received, by the Committee Chair, from now, until 31 October 2003. Members participating in this election will be selecting a President-Elect, Secretary, and two Members-at-Large to take office in May 2004. The office of President is intended as a six-year leadership commitment - two as President-Elect, two as President, and two as Past-President; the By-laws of the society include procedures if circumstances arise that prevent serving through the three offices. The Secretary is elected to a two-year term and can be nominated for re-election. The Members-at-Large serve three-year terms and will work closely with both Council and the Committee Chairs to help coordinate the implementation of the "Five Year Goals and Objectives."

I encourage all active and honorary members to think about their colleagues who are active in SPNHC and propose them for nomination. Our society depends on both the dedication of our Council members and the involvement of our membership in choosing people who will serve the society.

To submit a nomination or for more information on the election process please contact the committee chair, Richard K. Rabeler, rabeler@umich.edu, (734) 615-6200 (tel), (734) 647-5719 (fax), University of Michigan Herbarium, 3600 Varsity Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48108-2287, USA.

Rabeler & White

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A While many folks may be asking questions of you as manager, you need to do so as well. If you don't understand a building specification or a moving quote, ask – How? Why? When? Again, it goes toward being better informed. A phrase that Rabeler's computer science instructor at Hartwick College used repeatedly is very appropriate for a move manager: **Assume nothing!** You can't afford to assume that someone else has a critical aspect of the project covered – it's much better to ask and be certain.

Summary

Finally, your **attitude** throughout the project is critical. Many people say that moving and marriage are the two most stressful challenges in a person's life. Moving a collection or a number of collections is certainly stressful; it can be seen as either a challenge (yes, let's see how we can do it!) or as an annoyance (do I have to?). Unless you have already participated in a major move, adopting the "challenge" may be difficult. But, you as manager *must* adopt a positive attitude toward the project. As a collection manager you are well equipped for this challenge. Collection Managers are naturals at multi-tasking, and you may be the only person who is (or is even willing to) consider the entire scope of the project.

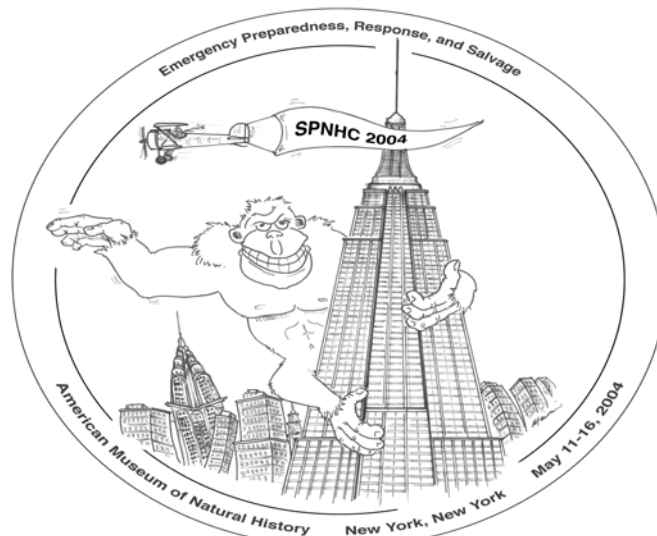
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Visit SPNHC on-line at:



www.spnhc.org



19th Annual Meeting of
the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections

New York, New York... **SPNHC heads to the Big Apple!**

Next spring the American Museum of Natural History will host the 19th annual meeting of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections May 11-16, 2003, where we will be joined by the International Society for Biological and Environmental Repositories (ISBER). See more details elsewhere in this newsletter. Founded in 1869, the American Museum of Natural History is one of the world's largest repositories of natural history specimens. Occupying four city blocks on Manhattan's Upper West Side, its collections of natural science specimens and anthropological artifacts are global in scope. AMNH is home to some 200 scientific staff, including more than 40 curators who carry out research in anthropology, biology, earth sciences, astrophysics, molecular systematics, and paleontology.

The theme of the 19th annual meeting is *Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Salvage* and as part of next year's activities we will be devoting one day of the conference's technical sessions to presentations focusing on issues relating to emergency preparedness and response. ISBER will be providing programming for a half-day specialty session relating to biomaterials, partnerships with zoos and other live collections, and setting up tissue repositories. Several presentations in this session will also deal with emergency response and salvage efforts specific to these collections. A one-day workshop that deals with practical issues encountered in responding to the first 24 hours after a disaster, the most critical time period, will follow the meeting.

The meeting promises to be an exciting week with collection tours, workshops, discussion groups, and a trip to Yale's new Environmental Science Center.

For more information, visit, www.spnhc.org and follow the links to the 19th annual meeting, or contact Chris Norris, Department of Paleontology, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th Street, New York, New York 10024; norris@amnh.org. We hope to see you next May!

<http://www.peabody.yale.edu/other/spnhc>

ISBER 2004 - Archival of Genomic Resources, A New Paradigm for Museum Collections

Museum collections are traditionally assembled for documenting biodiversity, yet modern technology has seen an increase in the use of museum collections in nontraditional ways. This is especially true for molecular genetic research, which involves destructive sampling of traditional museum specimens. While historic morphological voucher specimens can yield important molecular data, the increase in use of such research techniques and the value of the data that they generate argue for museums to establish formal collections specifically targeted for such research. Despite the pressure on museums to follow this new paradigm, few institutions have dedicated resources for this purpose. A vacuum exists concerning consensus standards and best practices associated with the collection, storage and management of genomic resource collections. This is a growing concern for those of us who find ourselves grappling with the management of modern biomaterial collections. It is an area where SPNHC will continue to play an organizational role, advancing our collective understanding of this emerging new discipline. To that end, SPNHC has partnered with the International Society for Biological and Environmental Repositories (ISBER) to host a joint session during the 19th annual SPNHC meeting at the American Museum of Natural History next May to focus programming on tissue collection issues. ISBER will hold their annual meeting at AMNH at the same time as SPNHC, and there will be a number of opportunities for members of both societies to meet.

ISBER will provide programming on biorepository design and associated data management. The meeting will also include a vendor exhibit, allowing participants to come in direct contact with the latest technology for building and maintaining genetic resource collections. Included in the collection tours typically offered at SPNHC meetings will be a visit to the Ambrose Monell Cryo Collection (AM-CC), the first new collection unit to be established at AMNH in over 30 years! This state of the art facility was designed with input from members of ISBER, an organization within which the AM-CC now maintains an active role. The facility is based on a bulk storage and supply of liquid nitrogen (LN₂), which is used to charge the cryogenic storage vats for the museum's growing genetic resource collection. Liquid nitrogen is classified as a refrigerated liquid. It is a physical property of liquid Nitrogen that it is cold (-196° Celsius). Specimens are maintained at temperatures below -150° C suspended in a cold vapor above the LN₂ layer within the vats. These vats require no electricity to keep the specimens frozen since there are no mechanical compressors involved. The museum's investment was fortuitous in light of the recent blackout in NYC, which could have proved disastrous to the precious materials collected by many researchers from around the world over the

last 30 years. The use of LN₂ offers other advantages as well – by archiving tissues at temperatures below the glass transition point of water (approximately -132°C) it is possible to prevent ice crystal formation in the tissues, which occurs at warmer temperatures. These ice crystals are the bane of frozen tissue specimens, as they tend to shear DNA molecules and rupture cellular membranes, compromising the downstream utility of the specimens. To learn more about recent advances in tissue collection, preservation and archiving don't miss this exciting event.

Robert Hanner, ISBER President

Best Practices in Collections Stewardship Seminar: Collections Planning

January 23-24, 2004 - San Antonio, TX

Hosted by the Witte Museum (www.wittemuseum.org)

In response to numerous requests from museums for information about collections planning, AAM has been conducting research on the issue. Sample collections plans from over a dozen museums are available to AAM institutional member museums from the Information Center (infocenter@aam-us.org), a book is in development, and the above professional education seminar is being offered.

Based on national, collaborative research done by the National Museum of American History and the American Association of Museums, this seminar will enable you and your institution to:

- Assess current collecting practices
- Create a sound intellectual framework for collecting
- Outline the components for a written plan
- Identify barriers in the process
- Strategize for successful implementation

Registration fees: \$295 AAM Members; \$345 Non-members. For agenda, speakers, registration forms, and travel information, visit www.aam-us.org.

Beth Merritt, Registrars Committee, AAM

Obituary Dr. Edward Porter Alexander

Dr. Alexander - historian, author, museum administrator, and teacher - died of a heart ailment on July 31, 2003, at the age of 96. Alexander's intellectual and professional contributions to

museums and museum studies are enormous. Alexander helped define the museum profession in the United States, and was a vigorous advocate for museum studies training programs. His scholarly work on museums resulted in the publication of numerous articles and several important books. His best known book, *Museums in Motion: An Introduction to the History and Functions of Museums*, has been in print since 1979. His other books included *James Duane: Revolutionary Conservative* (1978) and *Museum Masters: Their Museums and Their Influence* (1983). Alexander published *The Museum in America: Innovators and Pioneers* in 1997, when he was 90 years old.

Alexander was born on 11 January 1907, in Keokuk, Iowa. He graduated from Drake University, earned a master's degree in history from the University of Iowa and a doctorate in history from Columbia University. He served as director of the New York State Historical Association from 1934 to 1941, at Ticonderoga and Cooperstown. During this time, he edited the *New York History* quarterly. He became director of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin in 1941. In 1946, Alexander moved to Colonial Williamsburg, where he was Director of Interpretation and later Vice President, serving until 1972. Alexander next became the founder and first director of the museum studies program at the University of Delaware in 1972, where he taught until he retired in 1978. In his six years of innovative teaching, Alexander trained 365 students. He was also a founding member of the American Association for State and Local History, and President of the American Association of Museums from 1956 to 1960.

Alexander's honors included membership in Phi Beta Kappa, the Katherine Coffey Award from the Northeast Museums Conference, the Award of Distinction from American Association for State and Local History, a Distinguished Service Award from the American Association of Museums, and a Medal of Distinction from the University of Delaware.

I met Edward Alexander when I was a graduate student. He entertained our Introduction to Historical Administration and Museum Studies class with a fascinating lecture on the history of museums (without using any notes) and then answered our questions. He was an engaging and stimulating teacher. I asked him to sign my copy of *Museums in Motion* (our course textbook), which seemed to amuse him quite a bit. Had I known I would get to meet him, I would have purchased a new copy so I didn't have to hold my thumb over the "USED" stamp while he signed.

The family suggests memorials to the Edward Porter Alexander Fund at the Museum Studies Program, Office of University Development, Academy Building, the University of Delaware, Newark, DE 19716.

John Simmons
Natural History Museum & Biodiversity Research Center
University of Kansas

SPNHC 2003 Conference Report, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas

The week of June 15-21 found well over one hundred SPNHC members and friends in Texas, many of them for the first time, for the 18th annual meeting of the Society. Hosted by the Museum of Texas Tech University, a goal of the conference was to allow delegates the opportunity to experience West Texas life firsthand. One event that was not included on the program, but certainly helped all to experience West Texas more completely, was the impromptu thunder storm on Tuesday afternoon. We're sorry that we couldn't arrange some blowing dust to go along with it!

The conference and workshop were very well attended considering that many were facing budgetary limitations at their home institutions. Conference attendance consisted of 108 delegates from 20 US states, three Canadian provinces and four other countries. Workshop attendance was 72 delegates from 19 US states, four Canadian provinces and three other countries.

As is customary, the first day of the conference consisted of committee meetings at the museum and pre-conference field trips. A great deal of important work was discussed in the various committee meetings, but there was also time for socializing and catching up with acquaintances. The highlight of the day, however, was the look on everyone's faces when the stretch Excursion SUV limousine pulled up to transport 11 excited conference attendees to their all-day field trip to the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, Palo Duro Canyon, and the outdoor musical drama, "TEXAS!"



Technical sessions began on Monday and continued through Wednesday. A total of 35 presentations and 10 posters were given. The theme of the conference was "Modern Museums: Balancing Tradition and Technology," a topic of particular interest and relevance in today's museums. Presentations had been grouped by subject and while each technical session seemed to be a self-contained unit, the presentations given in the last two sessions tied everything together, making the meeting feel like a complete package.

Also on Monday, we were privileged to hear the keynote speaker, Terry Yates, Vice Provost for Research at the University of New Mexico and former director of the Museum of Southwestern Biology, speak about networking with other institutions and leveraging the strengths of the collections in our care to create new (and ever-larger) funding opportunities for the collections.

Time for socializing was built into the meeting schedule so as to not detract from the conference itself. Such times included the Ice Breaker reception combined with collection tours, and the conference banquet held at the Buddy Holly Center in Lubbock. Following an excellent West Texas barbeque, a live band played (and played and played) until it was well past time to leave. All of the nearly 90 people in attendance enjoyed the music - evidenced by the fact that all were dancing up until they left the center, either to travel back to the dorms and motels or to visit the micro-breweries located in the depot district.

The week was capped off by an intense two-day workshop focusing on "The Use of Digital Technology in Museums." Nine presenters led discussions that ranged from intellectual property rights to setting up a relational database. It was a grueling two days, but I (for one) did not hear any complaints.

The local committee would like to thank everyone for their support and assistance in bringing the conference to fruition. Many SPNHC members assisted in so many ways and cannot be named individually. Please accept my heartfelt "Thank You!"

Richard Monk
Conference Organiser

SPNHC 2003

Some Additional Comments

**Jean-Marc Gagnon –
Member at Large**

Richard Monk and the SPNHC 2003 organizing committee prepared a wonderful schedule of activities and technical sessions for the participants. It started with exceptional field trips: the Triassic Treasure of Texas, Lubbock Lake Landmark, and History and Nature Come Alive in Texas. I was among several who enjoyed a half-day trip a few miles out of town to collect bits and pieces of early Triassic saurians surrounded by badland scenery. Several others were treated to an extraordinary day trip in stretch SUVs to explore the history and nature of Texas.

The setting of the museum was certainly relaxing, with few students on campus, jack rabbits running in the background and large quantities of cottontails sheltering in a large patch of cacti.



After the usual committee meetings, the technical sessions began on Monday morning and covered a well-balanced variety of topics in keeping with the title of the conference, from IPM and other conservation issues to databasing and other IT advances. The following two-day workshop (June 20-21) addressed specifically the question of data digitization and web access. Several experts described regional, national and international initiatives to facilitate this process and provided us with their perspective on where to start when dealing with these issues. The annual business meeting held on Thursday confirmed that next year's meeting will take place at the American Museum of Natural History in New York, followed by The Natural History Museum in London, UK, in 2005.

From a gastronomic point of view, we were treated very well, with most continental breakfasts and lunches included in the registration fee; lunches actually offered an excellent selection of typical Texas-style dishes. The Wednesday-night banquet was also a great highlight of the conference. It was kept simple, buffet-style, held at the Buddy Holly Center, where we were treated to an excellent rock band (lots of dancing!).

During some of the free time available during the program and in the evenings, many enjoyed a visit to the Prairie Dog Town, an enclosed area where prairie dogs have been protected and fed since 1932.



Photo: Gagnon

The great temperature throughout the conference was certainly conducive to exploring Lubbock, even though being a pedestrian in Lubbock makes you an exception amongst the many car, pickup and SUV drivers, and can be quite dangerous. The risk of walking the town was confirmed when a 30-minute torrential rain transformed most streets into lakes and rivers.

Overall, a excellent conference with much information and many solutions to bring back home, an opportunity to taste a bit of that great Texan hospitality, and to network with our natural history museum colleagues. Congratulations to Richard and his teammates!



Photo: Monk

Museum of Texas Tech University



Photo: Gagnon

Conference participants hard at work!!!



Photo: Monk

Stretch SUV Texas Tour.



Photo: Monk

Friday presenters: from left, Richard Urban, Simon Owens, Brian Bisbee, and Paul Morris.



Photo: Monk

Saturday presenters: from left, Richard Monk, John Wiczorek, Rina Pantalony, Reed Beaman, and Jim Fox

In Their Own Words - **The August 14 Blackout**

Edited by Ann Pinzl

It was the largest power failure ever in North America. Businesses of all sorts and sizes, hospitals, neighborhoods, and citizens were impacted in a myriad of ways. What happened within museums and universities, and the collections they hold? It would seem there were no dire consequences, and “getting home” may have been the most trying aspect of the day (one respondent rode it through so well that staying the night at the museums, with the collections was preferable to going home and being without electricity). Having a back-up power system saw several institutions through the blackout, while one major museum benefited from political geography (and corresponding power grid) for its collections facility not losing power. For the sake of brevity, these posts have been omitted.

The following are some immediate responses, and occasional advice, provided by some of our colleagues. Posts are arranged alphabetically by city.

Rich Rabeler, Herbarium, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA

Yes, the UM Herbarium was without power for about 19 hours. While our -80C Freezer has a CO₂ backup system in place, we discovered that does not mean it will work. It didn't. I'm going to look into ways to periodically test it. We have had a series of small power outages this summer that have interrupted our web server several times; our electric power no longer comes from the UM power plant as it did when we were on central campus. It was ironic that, at the time of the outage, our webmaster, college computer support person, and myself were discussing which UPS system we should add to that server! RH & temp stayed closer to “normal” than I would have expected. All systems survived the rough power shutdown.

Judith Price, Department of Invertebrates, Canadian Museum of Nature, Aylmer, Québec, Canada

Areas of Ottawa experienced rolling blackouts throughout Friday and Saturday, so traffic signals were highly unpredictable. Our display building, the Victoria Memorial Museum Building in the city of Ottawa, was closed for most of the weekend, and remains closed today (August 18) in voluntary compliance with the request of the government of Ontario to reduce nonessential power usage. Personally, the only really stressful part was the long commute home on Thursday.

Lisa Kronthal and Chris Norris, American Museum of Natural History, New York City, USA

AMNH lost power at 4:06 p.m. Auxiliary power illuminated gallery areas and some of the major corridors, but most of the science departments were plunged into darkness. Transiting

areas with no natural light (i.e. many of the most recently constructed collection rooms) became an interesting challenge. Fortunately at this time on a summer day, many staff had already left. Unfortunately (for them) that meant that they ended up stranded in the subway. But that's another story. Galleries were rapidly cleared of visitors by security personnel. A number of visitors and staff had to be extracted from elevators around the building, but this operation was completed within 1-2 hours of the shutdown. Collection responses were coordinated by the museum's Conservator for Natural Science Collections, Lisa Kronthal. Lisa phoned round the various collection managers in the first hour after the power failure to check whether all visitors and staff were clear of the collections, and whether the collections were secure. In cases where no response was received, a small group of collections staff (informally known as “The Fab Four”) was dispatched to check in person. Once all the collection areas had been checked, the Senior Vice President for Operations was advised that the collections were secure. She was also provided with a list of vulnerable and/or valuable collections; this was passed to security to ensure that particular attention was paid to these areas. A few unexpected challenges had to be overcome. In the absence of HVAC, the Museum's phone exchange overheated and shut down, meaning that for the early part of the evening there was no phone communication. Essential communication took place via radio, while “The Fab Four” conveyed messages on foot to staff stranded in the collections. There were also some unexpected bonuses; with the loss of power to the Museum's food hall, a large number of perishable items (including various ice creams and other deserts) were made available to staff free-of-charge. While the ice cream melted, the collections remained remarkably stable - preliminary analysis of climate statistics suggests that there was no more than a gradual 10° Fahrenheit increase in temperature in collection areas over the 14 hours of the power outage. If the outage had continued through the next day, this would have been much more dramatic. The power outage was the first major test of the museum's Emergency Management Plan, which was heavily re-worked in the aftermath of 9/11. Thus far, it seems that the plan worked well. Emergency response carts, installed throughout the collections as part of the Plan, were an easily accessible source of flashlights. Telephone contact lists were used to contact essential staff who were away, and to refer collection decisions to division chairs who were off-site. All staff had been previously provided with an emergency information telephone number - this was heavily used on Friday morning, as staff were informed that the Museum would remain closed for the day. Some advice from our experiences: Since frozen collections and nitrate negatives are the materials most susceptible to damage during a power outage, make certain freezers are connected to back-up generators and ni-

trates are stored in freezers. Have back-up batteries for computers and servers to ensure a 'graceful' shutdown and no loss of data. If no back-up light source is available, florescent strips should be placed in halls and storage areas to lead staff or visitors to the closest exit. Put lots of flashlights, transistor radios and internal radios in emergency response carts.

Paul Beelitz, Anthropology Department, American Museum of Natural History, New York City, USA

We lost power at 4:11 p.m. Thursday and it came back on around 6 a.m. Friday, a total of about 14 hours. Sunset was around 8 p.m. and sunrise about 6a.m., so 10 of those hours were when the sky was dark. Consequently, in five climate controlled anthropology storage areas, the temperature increase was only between 3 and 10 degrees Fahrenheit, but the RH changed anywhere between 8% and 22%. One of the storage areas is a room within a room, and the temperature change barely registered there, but the RH went up 8%.

The first thing we did in anthropology was account for everyone. Then we instructed everyone to turn their window air conditioners and their computers off. Besides our flashlights, the most important piece of equipment was a basic \$10 Radio Shack transistor radio I always keep in my office. After finding a station that was broadcasting, I set it up in the anthropology hallway, and everyone communed around it to hear the news. This was enormously beneficial because knowing what's wrong helps people to cope better. I strongly encourage everyone to have a transistor radio in their emergency response supply carts. The security of anthropology collections was not compromised. The public was very efficiently escorted off the premises, and collections management personnel went to the storage areas with their flashlights to make sure everything was secure. We have a policy of always keeping our cabinets locked, but a group of interns working in the archaeology collection did not, obviously, have the opportunity to lock up the trays of objects they'd been working on when it went dark, so we locked the artifacts up in the nearest available cabinet. The women in anthropology were wearing a wide variety of shoe types, and naturally were very concerned about the walk home. They gathered all the available Band-Aids and distributed them amongst themselves, I suppose on the basis of shoe type and anticipated distance. I know that many women are into shoes, but the practical implications of fashion were a revelation to me in this emergency. Transistor radios in emergency response carts, and definitely, sneakers in everyone's bottom desk drawer. Everyone in anthropology was gone by about 5:30 p.m., but I stayed on to patrol the storage areas, empty the refrigerator in the lunchroom, and bring all food-related trash down to the museum's yard. At this point we didn't know how long the blackout was going to last, so no food could be left behind. Numerous security, construction, operations, and scientific personnel stayed late that night, if not all night, so the visitor's cafeteria was opened about 8 p.m. and we were invited to dispose of perishable food by eating it. Certain beverage categories were, however, off limits. The museum's water supply is not delivered through hydrostatic pressure, so without pumps the only toilets that

worked were in the basement of one of the buildings. The museum remained closed on Friday and reopened to the public on Saturday.

Fiona Graham, Conservator, Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

Our storage facility is on the Quebec side of the Ottawa River. This means that the Natural Heritage Building was not affected by the blackout in Ontario. Our exhibition building, the Victoria Memorial Museum Building, is in downtown Ottawa and I happened to be there when the power went out at 4:11 p.m. I was showing my intern around the building and we were in the atrium when the lights went out (barely perceptible since the atrium is lit by skylights and windows), and the doors to each of the wings swung slowly shut. They are held open by electromagnets and are meant to close (not lock) in the event of a power outage. This is a good thing from a conservation point of view since interior RH and T are maintained longer in the individual galleries. Security and facilities managers were immediately "in the loop." It took a while for the scope of the problem to be understood. Everyone was very calm and efficient. The only possible "emergency" aspect of the situation would be if people were trapped in our elevators. I don't think this happened, however. I was contacted that evening at home by the collections director who relayed a request from the facilities director to call them if I had any concerns about the collections in the museum downtown. I was given home and cell phone numbers. I informed the Collections director that I couldn't think of any danger to the collections under the circumstances. There are no microclimate generators or freezers in the building. The collection material in the building is subject to extremes in RH on a regular basis, and a possible increase in temperature (which would take ages given the massive structure, volume of air, and shut-down of fresh-air intake) would be nothing compared to what the grow lights can do in our dinosaur hall. There is a possibility that higher temperatures in the mineral gallery could result in some damage to a very small number of mineral specimens (Rob's [Waller] department, clearly). Overall, there was nothing I could suggest that hadn't already been done (e.g. shutting down the fresh-air intake). The head of security contacted me the next morning to verify my opinion. The building is still closed as part of a province-wide effort to reduce power consumption while the electrical grid is being stabilized. I plan to go in to the museum next week to look at our hygrothermograph chart in one of the galleries. That will give me, and the facilities people, a better idea of how the building performed during the shut-down. So, everything seems to have gone smoothly for us, thanks in part to an "inappropriate" interior environment in the first place! Communication was key, obviously, and we did very well thanks to directors having lists of home phone numbers.

Ross MacCulloch, Herpetology, Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

.....Continued on page 18

Pinzl

.....Continued from page 17

Today is my first day back to work after a short vacation. I haven't been at work regularly in quite a while. Today [August 21] is also a non-working day here at the ROM - we've been told not to come in until the 25th to conserve electricity. Ontario has been close to the edge in power use for the last few days because several of our nukes are inactive for repairs, and we're having a heat wave (should end tonight).

I didn't know this, because I haven't read my email at home, so I blithely came to work today only to find that nobody else is here! As for the blackout affecting the collections, I know that all of our ultra-cold freezers made it because the ROM has a diesel generator and they are all hooked up to it.

John C. Semple, Herbarium, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada

Nothing appears to have been disrupted in the WAT herbarium ... other than my losing a few minutes worth of writing on my computer. Some more molecular-oriented labs in the department had more problems as -80°C freezers warmed up and gels stopped running. The loss of power did cause some critical problems with fish tanks due to sensitivity of some fish taxa to changes in water temperature.

Publications of Interest

This section is from the Conservation Committee and chaired by Paula T. Work of the Citations Subcommittee. Prices and availability are cited when available. Annotations are provided by Diana Dicus {DD}, Jessica Johnson {JJ}, Ann Pinzl {AP}, Rob Waller {RW} and Paula Work {PW}. Contributions and comments may be submitted to Paula Work, Maine State Museum, 83 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333; (207) 287-6635(voice); (207) 287-6633(fax); paula.work@maine.gov (email).

Allsopp, D., and C.C. Gaylarde 2002. *Heritage Biocare training course notes in biodeterioration for museum, library, archive and cultural property staff*. London, distributed by Archetype Publications, version 1.0 Year: 1 CD-ROM ; 4 3/4 in. ISBN: 1873132093

Powerpoint modules contain notes used by the authors to present their training for staff charged with preserving and handling archival materials at risk for biodegradation.

Anonymous. 2002. Herbarium of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (K). *Taxon* 51:593-594.

Announcement of interim move of reserve collections to separate facility until a new planned building becomes available.

Anonymous. 2002. Re-housing of the herbarium of Liverpool Museum (LIV). *Taxon* 51: 218.

Brief note announcing the reopening of LIV with account of facility improvements.

Attas, M., E. Cloutis, C. Collins, D. Goltz, C. Majzels, J.R. Mansfield and H.H. Mantsch. 2003. Near-infrared spectroscopic imaging in art conservation: investigation of drawing constituents. *Journal of Cultural Heritage*, 4: 127-136.

Barclay, R.L., A. Bergeron, C. Schlichting, and C. Dignard 2002. *Mount-making for museum objects*. Canadian Conservation Institute; Centre de conservation du Québec. Ottawa: Canadian Conservation Institute, 2nd Edition 74 p. ISBN: 0660188430. French Standard No: ISBN: 0660967936

Benedict, A.L. 2002. *Assessing environmental risk at structurally enclosed, in situ paleontological exhibits*. Thesis (M.A.)—Baylor University, 2002.

Bisht, A.S. 2003. *Conservation science*. National Museum Institute (New Delhi, India) Delhi [India] : Agam Kala Prakashan, 181 p. ISBN: 817320053X

British Library. National Preservation Office. 2002. *Caring for collections: proceedings of the National Preservation Office Annual Conference, 21 November 2000*. British Library, London: National Preservation Office. London 51 p. ISBN: 071234781X

Carter, Julian. 2002. The conservation of vertebrate collections. *Biology Curator* 23: 4-8.

Brief overview of several main conservation concepts relating to natural history collections as a whole, although directed to dry vertebrate material; greater emphasis on the active/'invasive' conservation treatments of cleaning and repair and the preventive conservation aspects of pest control, and storage areas and the environment thereof. {AP}

Chevillot, C. and S. Watelet 2003. Laser cleaning in French museums: towards instating a methodology. *Journal of Cultural Heritage*, Volume 4, Supplement 1, p.27-32.

Chiozzi, G., and L. Andreotti. 2001. Behavior vs. time: understanding how visitors utilize the Milan Natural History Museum. *Curator* 44/2: 153-165.

To evaluate visitors' use of the exhibitions and the communication strategy of the Milan Natural History Museum, we compared results gathered with two methods, based respectively on the timing of visitors and on the unobtrusive observation of exhibit-use behaviors. We collected data from a sample of 100 groups of visitors (not guided), randomly selected at the museum entrance. We recorded the following data for each group: halls visited, length of stay in each hall, any kind of behavior showing visitor/exhibition interaction and the displays where interactions occurred. The study shows that visiting time does not give enough information about the actual use of exhibits by the audience. The investigation of visitor/exhibition interactions revealed itself to be the most usual method to describe the visitors' use of the exhibitions. The most important factor influencing visits to the Milan Natural History Museum is the communication technique used in the exhibition areas. {authors' abstract}

Degrigny, C., E. Tanguy, R. Le Gall, V. Zafirooulos and G. Marakis. 2003. Laser cleaning of tarnished silver and copper threads in museum textiles, *Journal of Cultural Heritage*, Volume 4, Supplement 1, p.152-156.

Florian, M.E. 2002. *Fungal facts : solving fungal problems in heritage collections*. London vi, 146 p. : ill. ; 25 cm. ISBN: 1873132638

- Grossi, C.M., R. M. Esbert, F. Díaz-Pache and F. J. Alonso. 2003. Soiling of building stones in urban environments. *Building and Environment* 38: 147-159.
- Green, R.E., and J.P.W. Scharlemann. 2003. Egg and skin collections as a resource for long-term ecological studies. *Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club* 123A: 165-176; (Supplement) *Zoological Record* v.139 2003/01-2003/08.
- Harinarayana, N. and V. Jeyaraj. 2002. *Care of museum objects*. Chennai: Commissioner of Museums, Govt. Museum, revised edition. 93 p. Standard No: LCCN: 2002-286975
- Hatchfield, P. 2002. *Pollutants in the museum environment: practical strategies for problem solving in design, exhibition and storage*. London, 203 p. ISBN: 1873132964
- Hillyard, P.D., and J. Beccaloni. 2002. Computer generated labels for wet collections. *Biology Curator* 23: 11-13.
- Review of printers, papers and inks; discussion of test results with final recommendation to use inkjet printing with pigmented ink; list of suppliers. {AP}
- Howlett, P. 2002. Documentation of vertebrate collections at the National Museums & Galleries of Wales. Why document collections? *Biology Curator* 23: 8-10.
- Article begins with listing of reasons re access and accountability and continues with discussion of approaches used at NMGW. {AP}
- IMLS (Institute of Museum and Library Services). 2002. *Sustaining our heritage: the IMLS achievement*. Washington, D.C. Institute of Museum and Library Services, 78p.
- Jeyaraj, V. 2002. *Hand book on conservation in museums*. Chennai: Commissioner of Museums, Govt. Museum, 155 p. LCCN: 2002-286976
- Jones, M. 2003. *For future generations: conservation of a Tudor maritime collection*. Mary Rose Trust, Portsmouth. 200 p. ISBN: 0954402952
- Keene, S. 2002. *Managing conservation in museums*, Oxford. Boston: Butterworth-Heinemann, 2nd Edition: 258 p. ISBN: 0750656034
- Maekawa, S., and E. Kerstin. 2003. *The use of oxygen-free environments in the control of museum insect pests*. Los Angeles, Getty Conservation Institute, 224 p. ISBN: 0892366931.
- Miriam, C. 2002. *Preserving what is valued: museums, conservation, and First Nations*. Vancouver, UBC Press, 2002.
- New York State Museum. 2002. *The Lewis Henry Morgan Collection at the New York State Museum*. Albany, N.Y. New York State Museum.
- Describes history of mid-nineteenth century Iroquois materials collection, individual objects still in the collection, recent project to conserve and rehouse them, and provides images as they were at the time of their collection and as they appear today. Contents: Morgan Collection background and history — Watercolored pencil drawings from the Parker-Reuss presentation book — Illustrations from Morgan's Reports to the Regents — The NYSM Morgan Collection today — Images showing conservation treatment and rehousing — Image index — Orthography used for Seneca names — Further information — Credits and acknowledgements.
- Olson, S.L. 2003. Development and uses of avian skeleton collections. *Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club* 123A: 26-34; (Supplement) *Zoological Record* v.139 2003/01-2003/08.
- Orska-Gawry, J.I., Surowiec, J. Kehl, H. Rejniak, K. Urbaniak-Walczak and M. Trojanowicz. 2003. Identification of natural dyes in archeological Coptic textiles by liquid chromatography with diode array detection, *Journal of Chromatography A*, 989: 239-248.
- Mosk, J.S. and N.H. Tennent. 2002. *Contributions to conservation: research in conservation at the Netherlands Institute for Cultural Heritage (ICN) Instituut Collectie Nederland*. London, James & James, 126 p. ISBN: 1902916093
- Papadopoulos, A.M., A. Avgelis, A. and M. Santamouris. 2003. Energy study of a medieval tower, restored as a museum. *Energy & Buildings* 35: 951-962.
- Roosen-Runge, P.H., and A.P. Roosen-Runge. 2002. *The virtual display case: making museum image assets safety visible*. Hull, Quebec Canadian Heritage Information Network, 3rd Edition: 3rd ISBN: 0660187906
- Smith, T.B., P.P. Marra, M.S. Webster, I. Lovette, H.L. Gibbs, R.T. Holmes, K.A. Hobson, S. Rohwer. 2003. A call for feather sampling. *Auk: a journal of ornithology* 120: 218-221.
- Sokhan, M., P. Gaspar, D.S. McPhail, A. Cummings, L. Cornish, D. Pullen, F. Hartog, C. Hubbard, V. Oakley, and J.F. Merkel. 2003. Initial results on laser cleaning at the Victoria & Albert Museum, Natural History Museum and Tate Gallery. *Journal of Cultural Heritage* 4: 230-236.
- Stanford University Libraries. 2002. *Conservation online resources for conservation professionals*. Stanford University Libraries, Preservation Department.
- The single most useful preservation Web site, it contains many links to important organizations and publications, including The Abbey Newsletter. It has full-text articles on preservation topics, and its archives are fully searchable at <http://palimpsest.stanford.edu/>
- The Council for Museums, Archives and Libraries. 2002. *Benchmarks in collection care for museums, archives, and libraries: a self-assessment checklist*. The Council for Museums, Archives and Libraries, London (16 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AA) 68 p.
- Townsend, J., K. Eremin and A. Adriaens. 2003. *Conservation science 2002: papers from the conference held in Edinburgh, Scotland, 22-24 May 2002*. London 278 p. ISBN: 1873132883
- Tétreault, J. 2003. *Airborne pollutants in museums, galleries and archives : risk assessment, control strategies and preservation management*. Canadian Conservation Institute. Ottawa. ISBN: 0662340590
- van Driel-Murray, C. 2002. Practical evaluation of a field test for the identification of ancient vegetable tanned leathers. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 29(1):17-21. January 2002
- Watt, D. 2003. *Conservation of historic buildings and their contents: addressing the conflicts*. Shaftesbury, Donhead, 128 p. ISBN: 1873394632
- Whelan, V.J. 2002. *Strengthening the bond: science & textiles: pre-prints, North American Textile Conservation Conference 2002, April 5 and 6, 2002*. Philadelphia Museum of Art; Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum. North American Textile Conservation Conference, 168 p.
- Woodcock, M.W. 2003. Some reflections on the use of skins in bird illustration. *Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club* 123A: 249-252; (Supplement) *Zoological Record* v.139 2003/01-2003/08.
- Wright, M.M. 2002. *The conservation of fur, feather and skin*. London, 92 p. CEA Series; no. 3;
- An introduction to the types of tannages used on ethnographic leather / Aline Angus

- The conservation of Plains Indian shirts at the National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian Institution / Heather Richardson
- A brief summary of laser experimentation undertaken on parchment at the Conservation Centre, National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside (NMGM), Liverpool / Samantha Sportun
- The conservation of a turtleshell mask from the Torres Strait Islands / Jeremy Uden
- Love a duck: the conservation of feathered skins / Allyson Rae and Barbara Wills
- Cleaning of feathers from the Ethnological Museum, Berlin / Stephanie Schaeuffelhut, Helene Tello and Simone Schneider
- Colourful feathers: multidisciplinary investigation of the Amazonian featherwork from the ethnographic collection at the National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside (NMGM)-initial results / M. R. Solajic, M. Cooper, T. Seddon, J. Ruppel, J. Ostapkowicz and T. Parker
- Fur will fly: exhibiting controversy / Edwina Ehrman
- Caring for fur at the Museum of London / Barbara Heiberger

Position Announcements

If you would like to submit job descriptions, please send postings to the Newsletter Editor. See the SPNHC web site, www.spnhc.org, for current postings

COLLECTIONS MANAGER, PALEOBOTANY. The department of Geology of the Field Museum has an immediate opening for an experienced collection manager of fossil plants. The fossil plant collections, especially strong in Carboniferous from Mazon Creek, Paleocene from the Rocky Mountains and Great Plains, and in Mid and Late Cretaceous floras of North America encompass approximately 80,000 curated specimens and are ranked among the top paleobotanical collections in the world. We are seeking someone experienced with all aspects of modern collection management, a background in paleobotany or botany and familiar with the maintenance and use of database software to facilitate and develop initiatives for enhancing collection use and profile. The Collection Manager will report to the Curator of Paleobotany. Although not essential, a graduate education and an advanced degree in systematic paleobotany or botany are highly desired. A bachelor's degree in botany/geology with a minimum of three years collection management experience will also be considered. To apply send your CV and statement of interest to Human Resources, Paleobotany Collection Manager Search, The Field Museum, 1400 S. Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60605 by September 30th 2003. Arrange to have three letters of reference sent to Jennifer McElwain, Department of Geology, The Field Museum by the same date.

COORDINATOR OF MUSEUM COLLECTIONS. University of Michigan Herbarium. The University of Michigan Herbarium is searching for a Coordinator of Museum Collections to manage the algae, bryophyte, and part of the vascular plant collections at the University of Michigan Herbarium. Reporting to the Curators of these collections, this individual would receive and process loans, gifts and exchanges of specimens from other institutions and individuals, including unpacking, record keeping, assessing specimen condition, database updating, and refiling as appropriate; similarly process outgoing loans, gifts, and exchanges including pulling specimens to be sent from the collection and screening for those needing repair by plant mounters; update curatorial and collection databases as required, including preparing annual reports or shorter term summaries as needed from the data. In addition, this person would assist the curators with preparation of grant proposals to enhance collections, including databasing proposals, preparing labels for collections, and greet and assist visitors who want to use the collections. Participation in special projects required for proper curation of the collections would be expected including redistribution of collections, repackaging of bryophytes, and any associated library work related to upgrade the collections, including verification of type specimens, etc. Qualifications: Applicants should have a Master's degree in Plant Biology, with experience in plant systematics and herbarium practices; an MS or Ph.D. in

Plant Systematics and three years collection management experience is preferred. Candidates should have experience in the use of systematic literature and the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature and some familiarity with some of the most widespread digital cataloging software specific for biological research collections and/or digital imaging. Must have effective interpersonal skills and the ability to work independently. Interested applicants should visit <http://www.umich.edu/~jobs/> and click "How to Apply" to find applicable forms and instructions. Completed applications should be submitted to The University of Michigan, Recruiting & Career Services/Temporary Staffing Services, Room G250 Wolverine Tower, 3003 South State Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-1281.

Calendar of Events

The Calendar of Events is maintained by Christine Chandler of the Documentation Committee. Application deadlines, conferences and symposia relevant to collection management, computerization and conservation of natural history collections are listed. Notices may be submitted to Christine at Putnam Museum of History and Natural Science, 1717 West 12th Street, Davenport, IA 52804; (563) 324-1054 ext. 226; email chandler@putnam.org or dinoceras@juno.com.

September 2003

September 3 - 7, 2003. **ICAMT - Architecture and Museum Techniques Annual Meeting: Museum for the Town, The Town for the Museum**, Riga, Ventspils, Tukums, Latvia (Sept. 3-5) & Parnu, Tallin, Estonia (Sept. 6-7). Contact: Vita Rinkevica, The State Authority of Museums, Kalku St. 11a; 371 7503870 (phone); Vita.Rinkevica@km.gov.lv (email).

September 4 - 5, 2003. **Disaster Response; Salvaging Museum, Library, and Archival Materials: A Two-Day Disaster Workshop**, presented by the Upper Midwest Conservation Assessment Association, Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA. This is a follow-up to the 2001 workshop—Disaster Response: The Critical First 48 Hours. Contact Mark Markell, Field Services Coordinator for more information: (612) 870-3128 (phone); umca@aol.com (email).

September 7 - 11, 2003. **American Zoo and Aquarium Association 2003 Annual Conference**, hosted by the Columbus Zoo & Aquarium, Columbus, Ohio, USA.

September 8 - 12, 2003. **ICHIM03—The International Cultural Heritage Informatics Meeting Exploring Cultural Institutions and Digital Technology**, Ecole du Louvre, Paris, France. Program overview at <http://www.archimuse.com/ichim03>.

September 12, 2003. **Counting Culture? Practical Research Challenges for the Museum and Heritage Sector**, University of Greenwich, London, UK. For more information: www.gre.ac.uk/counting-culture (website).

September 12 - 13, 2003. **Building Community Connections**, AAM Educational Seminar, hosted by the Chicago Historical Society, Chicago, Illinois, USA. Visit www.aam-us.org for more information.

September 15 - 16, 2003. **Disaster Response; Salvaging Museum, Library, and Archival Materials: A Two-Day Disaster Workshop**, presented by the Upper Midwest Conservation Assessment Association, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa, USA. This is a follow-up to the 2001 workshop—Disaster Response: The Critical First 48 Hours. Contact Mark Markell, Field Services Coordinator for more information: (612) 870-3128 (phone); umca@aol.com (email).

- September 15 - 18, 2003. **Symposium 2003, Preservation of Electronic Records: New Knowledge and Decision-making**, co-hosted by CCI, LAC, & CHIN, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. Registration available online at: http://www.cci-icc.gc.ca/symposium2003/index_e.shtml (website) or contact: Christine Bradley (613) 998-3721 (phone).
- September 16, 2003. **NEH, Consultation Grants for Libraries, Museums, or Special Projects deadline**. National Endowment for the Humanities, 1100 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Rm. 402, Washington, DC 20506 USA; (202) 606-8400 (phone); www.neh.gov (website).
- September 16, 2003. **NEH, Planning Grants for Museums, Libraries, and Special Projects deadline**. National Endowment for the Humanities, 1100 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Rm. 402, Washington, DC 20506 USA; (202) 606-8400 (phone); www.neh.gov (website).
- September 16, 2003. **One-Day Workshop: Basics and Beyond**, offered by the Illinois Digitization Institute of the University of Illinois Library, Elgin Area Historical Society, Elgin, Illinois, USA. Visit the IDI website for more information: <http://images.library.uiuc.edu/projects/IDI/Index.HTM>.
- September 16 - 18, 2003. Three-Day Course in **Document Management and Document Imaging**. See website for course description and location: <http://www.archivebuilders.com/abcourses.html>. All printed class materials are available free on the internet for those who cannot attend.
- September 18 - 19, 2003. **The 21st Century Learner: The Continuum Begins with Early Learning**, convened by Association of Children's Museums, Assoc. for Library Service to Children (Am. Library Assoc.), Civil Society Inst., & Families and Work Institute; co-hosted by IMLS, Washington, DC, USA. Questions? Contact the Assoc. of Children's Museums: (202) 898-1080 (phone); <http://www.childrensmuseums.org/21stCenturyLearner/21stCLearnermain.htm> (website); acm@childrensmuseums.org (email).
- September 21 - 26, 2003. **2003 International Committee for University Museums and Collections (UMAC) Conference**, Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, Norman, Oklahoma, USA. Schedule of events and registration forms available online at: www.snmomnh.ou.edu/umac2003.
- September 24 - 26, 2003. **Illinois Association of Museums Annual Conference, Beacons of Life: Museums in Communities**. Contact: IAM, 500 E. Madison, Springfield, Illinois 62701 USA; (217) 524-7080 or (217) 524-6977 (phone).
- September 24 - 27, 2003. **Collections Management in Storage** at the Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies. Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies, 203 East Seminary, Mount Carroll, IL 61053 USA; (815) 244-1173 (phone); (815) 244-1619 (fax); <http://www.campbellcenter.org> (website).
- September 29 - October 1, 2003. **AFRICOM International Conference and 1st General Assembly**, Nairobi, Kenya. Contact: Eunice Muthoka, AFRICOM Secretariat, PO Box 38706 Ngara, 00600 Nairobi, Kenya; 254 20 3748668 (phone); 254 20 3748928 (fax).
- September 29 - October 1, 2003. **Computer Software for Collections Management** at the Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies. Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies, 203 East Seminary, Mount Carroll, IL 61053 USA; (815) 244-1173 (phone); (815) 244-1619 (fax); <http://www.campbellcenter.org> (website).
- September 30 - October 3, 2003. **Michigan Museums Association (MMA) Annual Meeting, Got a Second? It's About Time and the Museum: Making It Relevant in a Fast-Paced Society**, Marquette, Michigan, USA. Contact: MMA, PO Box 10067, Lansing, Michigan 48901-0067; (517) 482-4055 (phone); www.michiganmuseums.org (website).

October 2003

- October 1, 2003. **NARA, Archival Grants; Publications Grants; Documentary Editing Projects; Subvention Grants (for Documentary Publications) deadlines**. National Archive and Records, 700 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Rm. 111, Washington, DC 20408-0001 USA; (202) 501-5610 (phone); www.archives.gov (website).
- October 1, 2003. **NEH, Stabilization of Humanities Collection Grants deadline**. National Endowment for the Humanities, 1100 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Rm. 402, Washington, DC 20506 USA; (202) 606-8400 (phone); www.neh.gov (website).
- October 1, 2003. **Smithsonian Institution (SI), Native American Awards Program; Native American Visiting Student Awards deadlines**. SI Office of Fellowships, 750 9th St. NW, Ste. 9300, MRC 902, PO Box 37012, Washington, DC 20013-7012 USA; (202) 275-0655 (phone); www.si.fog (website).
- October 2 - 4, 2003. The first **International Conference on the History of Records and Archives**. University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. For more information, visit: www.fis.utoronto.ca/research/i-chora/home.html (website).
- October 6, 2003. **One-Day Workshop: Basics and Beyond**, offered by the Illinois Digitization Institute of the University of Illinois Library, Chicago Historical Society, Chicago, Illinois, USA. Visit the IDI website for more information: <http://images.library.uiuc.edu/projects/IDI/Index.HTM>.
- October 10 - 11, 2003. **Assembly 2003—Doing More with Less: Museum Leadership in Times of Crisis**, hosted by the Museum Trustee Assoc., (MTA) and the Getty Leadership Institute, New York, New York, USA. Contact: MTA, 2025 M St. NW, Ste. 800, Washington, DC 20036-3309 USA; (202) 367-1180 (phone); www.mta-hq.org (website).
- October 11 - 15, 2003. **Museums Meet the Collaboration Challenge, Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums Annual Meeting**, Newark, New Jersey, USA.
- October 14 - 18, 2003. **Spot Testing for Materials Characterization** at the Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies. Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies, 203 East Seminary, Mount Carroll, IL 61053 USA; (815) 244-1173 (phone); (815) 244-1619 (fax); <http://www.campbellcenter.org> (website).
- October 15, 2003. **IMLS, Conservation Project Support Grants deadline**. Institute of Museum and Library Services, 1100 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20506 USA; (202) 606-8539 (phone); www.imls.gov (website).
- October 15, 2003. **Smithsonian Institution, Minority Internship Program (Spring) deadline**. SI Office of Fellowships, 750 9th St. NW, Ste. 9300, MRC 902, PO Box 37012, Washington, DC 20013-7012 USA; (202) 275-0655 (phone); www.si.org (website).
- October 15 - 18, 2003. **63rd Annual Meeting of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (SVP)**, St. Paul, Minnesota, USA. See <http://www.vertpaleo.org/meetings/index.html> for more information.
- October 17 - 19, 2003. **British Association of Friends of Museums (BAFM) 30th Conference & AGM**, Thackray Museum, Leeds, UK. For conference details: www.bafm.org.uk (website) or contact Carol Bunbury, BAFM Hon. Secretary, 01566 782 440 (phone); carolbunbury@waitrose.com (email).
- October 19 - 23, 2003. **2003: NorthWEST by SouthWEST: Continuing Our Journey Together**, joint meeting of the Western Museums Association and the British Columbia Museums Association, Reno, Nevada, USA. Contact information: Western Mus. Assoc., 655 13th St., Ste. 301, Oakland, CA 94612; (510) 238-9700 (phone); (510) 238-9701 (fax); <http://www.westmuseum.org> (website).

October 30 - November 1, 2003. **Current Issues and Best Practices in Museum Management**, AAM Educational Seminar, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA. Visit www.aam-us.org for more information.

November 2003

November 2 - 5, 2003. **Annual Meeting of the Geological Society of America**, Seattle, Washington, USA.

November 3, 2003. **One-Day Workshop: Basics and Beyond**, offered by the Illinois Digitization Institute of the University of Illinois Library, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, Lovejoy Library, Edwardsville, Illinois, USA. Visit the IDI website for more information: <http://images.library.uiuc.edu/projects/IDI/Index.HTM>.

November 5 - 8, 2003. **Building the Museum: Association of Midwest Museums (AMM) Annual Conference**, held jointly with the Wisconsin Federation of Museums, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA. Check www.midwestmuseums.org for details.

November 6 - 7, 2003. **The Museum as a 'Firm': from Conservation of Value to Creation of Values**, University of Florence, Florence, Italy.

November 8 - 11, 2003. **Association of Science and Technology Centers (ASTC) Annual Conference**, St. Paul, Minnesota, USA, hosted by the Science Museum of Minnesota. Check out <http://www.astc.org> for more information.

November 17 - 18, 2003. **The VRD 5th Annual Digital Reference Conference: Reference Roundup**, San Antonio, Texas, USA.. Contact: Pat Grimsley, vrdfconf@vrd.org (email); (800) 464-9107 (phone).

November 19 - 20, 2003. **INTERCOM 2003: The Management of Museum Developments**, Canberra, Australia. For more information, contact: Steve Gower, Australian War Memorial, GPO Box 345, Canberra, ACT 26001, Australia; 0061 2 62434225 (phone); 0061 2 62434218 (fax); steve.gower@awm.gov.au (email) or Nancy Hushion at nlh@hushion.ca (email).

December 2003

December 1, 2003. **IMLS, Museum Assessment Program (MAP) Grants deadline**. Downloadable application available from AAM website: www.aam-us.org/programs.cfm; to receive application by mail: (202) 289-9118 (phone); map@aam-us.org (email).

December 5 - 6, 2003. **Best Practices in Collections Stewardship: Nazi-Era Provenance Research and Internet Portal Project**, AAM Educational Seminar, co-sponsored by the NARA, Washington, DC, USA. Visit www.aam-us.org for more information.

2004

January 2004

January 20 - 27, 2003. **4th Annual Jekyll Island Management Institute 2004 (JIMI 2004)**, sponsored by Southeastern Museums Conference (SEMC), Jekyll Island Museum and Historic Preservation, North Carolina State Historic Sites, and LaPaglia & Associates, Inc. Contact SEMC for more information: (404) 378-3153 (phone); www.semcdirect.net (website).

January 21 - 23, 2004. **Managing Yourself and Others, A Three-Day Seminar**, presented by the SEMC and the Jekyll Island Management Institute, Jekyll Island, Georgia, USA. Contact SEMC for more information: (404) 378-3153 (phone); www.semcdirect.net (website).

March 2004

March 31 - April 3, 2004. **Museums and the Web: An International Conference**, Charlotte, North Carolina, USA, organized by Archives and Museum Informatics.

May 2004

May 6 - 10, 2004. **AAM Annual Meeting & MuseumExpo™**, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA.

May 11-13, 2004. **International Society for Biological and Environmental Repositories (ISBER) Annual Meeting**, American Museum of Natural History, New York, New York, USA. Joint meeting with SPNHC.

May 11 - 16, 2004. **Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Salvage. 19th Annual Meeting, Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC)**, American Museum of Natural History, New York, New York, USA. Contact Chris Norris at norris@amnh.org or visit www.spnhc.org for details. Joint meeting with ISBER.

June 2004

June 11 - 16, 2004. **2004 Meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists**, Humboldt State University, Arcata, California, USA.

August 2004

August 16 - 21, 2004. **122nd Stated Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union**, Université Laval, Québec City, QC, Canada.

September 2004

September 19 - 22, 2004. **Association of Science-Technology Centers (ASTC) Annual Conference**, San Jose, California, USA, hosted by the Tech Museum of Innovation. For more information check out <http://www.astc.org>.

November 2004

November 7 - 10, 2004. **Annual Meeting of the Geological Society of America**, Denver, Colorado USA.

2005

May 2005

May 1 - 5, 2005. **AAM Annual Meeting & MuseumExpo™**, Indianapolis, Indiana, USA.

October 2005

October 15 - 18, 2005. **Association of Science and Technology Centers (ASTC) Annual Conference**, Richmond, Virginia, USA, hosted by the Science Museum of Virginia. For more information check out <http://www.astc.org>.

October 16- 19 2005. **Annual Meeting of the Geological Society of America**, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA.

2006

April 2006

April 27 - 30, 2006. **AAM Annual Meeting & MuseumExpo™**, Boston, Massachusetts, USA.

August 2006

August 13 - 19, 2006. **24th International Ornithological Congress**, Hamburg, Federal Republic of Germany.

October 2006

October 22 - 25, 2006. **Annual Meeting of the Geological Society of America**, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA.

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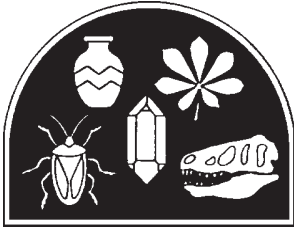
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