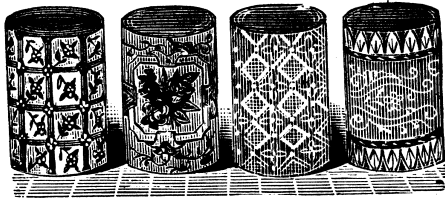


ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART



CHOOSING A CONSERVATOR

WHAT IS CONSERVATION?

Conservation is the repair or stabilization of materials through chemical or physical treatment to ensure that they survive in their original form as long as possible. *

It involves examination, scientific analysis, and research to determine original structure, materials, and extent of loss. Conservation also encompasses structural and environmental treatment to retard future deterioration. #

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PRESERVATION, CONSERVATION, AND RESTORATION?

There is some confusion between these three approaches to caring for artistic and historic works since all these areas are related and share some aspects. Each of these approaches is backed by scientific principles, philosophical approaches, and ethical considerations. In short, at their most basic levels, preservation prevents damage to an object, conservation repairs damage to an object, and restoration reconstructs the aesthetic appearance of an object.

WHAT IS A CONSERVATOR?

A conservator is a professional whose primary occupation is the practice of conservation and who, through specialized education, knowledge, training, and experience, formulates and implements all the activities of conservation in accordance with an ethical code such as the *AIC Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Practice*. * They are concerned with a number of factors in preserving an object, including determining structural stability, counteracting chemical and physical deterioration, and performing conservation treatment based on an evaluation of the aesthetic, historic, and scientific characteristics of the object. #

Conservation professionals have considerable practical experience, a broad range of theoretical and scientific knowledge, and a commitment to high standards and performance. A conservator may be trained at a conservation graduate training program or by lengthy apprenticeship with experienced senior colleagues. Because of the increasingly technical nature of modern conservation, conservators usually specialize in a particular type of object, such as: paintings, works on paper, textiles, sculpture, furniture, rare books, photographs, or archaeological, decorative, or ethnographic materials. Conservators tend to work in private practice or for a museum, library, historical society, or similar institution. #

* From "Glossary of Archival and Records Terminology," Society of American Archivists, <http://www.archivists.org/glossary/index.asp>

From "Guidelines to Selecting a Conservator," The American Institute for Conservation of Historic & Artistic Works, <http://aic.stanford.edu/public/select.html>

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

The American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works

1717 K Street N.W., Ste 200

Washington, DC 20006

202-452-9545 phone

202-452-9328 fax

info@aic-faic.org email

<http://aic.stanford.edu/> website

AIC is the national organization of conservation professionals, which sponsors conferences and publishes and sells a variety of conservation related periodicals. Its nonprofit foundation, Foundation of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (FAIC), offers educational programs and grants to conservators. A general bibliography on conservation is available on request. Their excellent brochure "Guidelines for Selecting a Conservator" addresses various issues including what questions to ask potential conservators and what to expect. The complete brochure can be obtained on the Internet at <http://aic.stanford.edu/public/select.html#one>.

Conservation Online

<http://palimpsest.stanford.edu/> website

COOL, a project of the Preservation Department of Stanford University Libraries, is a full text library of conservation information, covering a wide spectrum of topics of interest to those involved with the conservation of library, archives, and museum materials.

Northeast Document Conservation Center

100 Brickstone Square

Andover, MA 01810-1494

978-470-1010 phone

978-475-6021 fax

www.nedcc.org website

NEDCC is the largest nonprofit, regional conservation center in the United States. Its mission is to improve the preservation programs of libraries, archives, museums, and other historical and cultural organizations; to provide the highest quality services to institutions that cannot afford in-house conservation facilities or that require specialized expertise; and to provide leadership to the preservation field.

Peebles Island Resource Center

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation

P.O. Box 219

Waterford, NY 12188

518-237-8643 ext. 3225 phone

518-235-4248 fax

John.Lovell@oprhp.state.ny.us email

www.nysparks.com website

PIRC is the headquarters for the Bureau of Historic Sites, which is administered by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP). For over thirty years, the Bureau's conservation laboratories have cared for the thousands of historic objects in New York's state historic sites. During this time, PIRC has extended its conservation services, under contract, to other governmental agencies within New York State. Conservators specializing in seven disciplines – archeology, paintings, gilded objects and frames, textiles, furniture, decorative arts, and paper – provide a full spectrum of treatment and preventive conservation services.

Regional Alliance for Preservation

www.rap-arcc.org/index.php website

RAP is a national network of nonprofit organizations with expertise in the field of conservation and preservation. Through coordinated outreach activities, educational programs, and publications, RAP organizations foster awareness about preserving our cultural heritage.

CAN YOU RECOMMEND A CONSERVATOR TO ME?

Due to ethical reasons, museums, libraries, and archives are unable to recommend a specific conservator. However, we have developed this guide to provide introductory information on conservation and to provide a list of conservators in the region, who you can contact for more information on their qualifications, services, and prices. This information is not intended to be comprehensive and does not constitute an endorsement by the Albany Institute of History & Art.

The American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works has an online directory of conservators. You can search by specialty and narrow your search by services and geographic location. To access this directory, go to their website at <http://www.aic-faic.org/guide/form.html> website.

Multiple Specialties

Williamstown Art Conservation Center
225 South Street
Williamstown, MA 01267
413-458-5741 phone
413-458-2314 fax
wacc@williamstownart.org
www.williamstownart.org

Northeast Document Conservation Center
100 Brickstone Square
Andover, MA 01810-1494
978-470-1010 phone
978-475-6021 fax
www.nedcc.org website

Peebles Island Resource Center
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation &
Historic Preservation
P.O. Box 219
Waterford, NY 12188
518-237-8643 ext. 3225 phone
518-235-4248 fax
John.Lovell@oprhp.state.ny.us email
www.nysparks.com website

Spicer Art Conservation, LLC
305 Clipp Road
Delmar, NY 12054
518-765-2142

West Lake Conservators
PO Box 45
Skaneateles, NY 13152
315-685-8534

Books and Papers

Nelly Balloffet
Paper Star Associates
259 Illington Road
Ossining, NY 10562
914-941-8166

Marie E. Culver
PO Box 388
Salem, NY 12865
518-854-3587

Dan Clement
Clement Art Conservation
570 DuBois Road
Ithaca, NY 14850
607-387-9608

Ellen Tillapaugh
80 Beaver Street
Cooperstown, NY 13326
607-547-5646

Conservation Framing

Clement Frame and Art Shop
201 Broadway
Troy, NY 12180
518-272-6811

Furniture

David Bayne
Vly Summit Studios
RD2, Box 397A
Cambridge, NY 12816
518-692-7144

A.M. Carlisle
Art Conservation
526 Water Street
Williamstown, MA 01267
413-884-4503
maclisle@adelphia.net

Deborah Bigelow Associates
291 Main Street
Beacon, NY 12508
914-838-3928

Gilded Frames and Objects

Eric Price
220 Third Street
Troy, NY 12180
518-273-5773

Deborah Bigelow Associates
291 Main Street
Beacon, NY 12508
914-838-3928

Paintings

Hallie Halpern
682 Route 5
East Chatham, NY 12060
518-392-3585
artcon@taconic.net

Joyce Zucker
68 Darroch Road
Delmar, NY 12054
518-439-9558
518-237-8643 x3242

Photographs

Ana B. Hoffmann
145 Vail Lane
North Salem, NY 10560
845-669-5915
Fax: 845-669-8167

Monique Fischer
Northeast Document Conservation Center
100 Brickstone Square
Andover, MA 01810
978-470-1010

Objects (other than furniture and wooden objects)

Heidi Miksch
222 Spring Avenue
Troy, NY 12180
528-272-1592 (eves.)

Textiles

Patsy Orlofsky
Director
Textile Conservation Workshop
Main Street
South Salem, NY 10590
914-763-5805

Marlene Eidelheit
Textile Conservation Lab
Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine
1047 Amsterdam Avenue
New York, NY 10025
212-316-7523

Ronnee Barnett
182 Cherry Hill Road
Accord, NY 12404
845-687-7398

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Albany Institute of History & Art
Library
125 Washington Avenue
Albany, NY 12210
(518) 463-4478
library@albanyinstitute.org
www.albanyinstitute.org